FC FLOWER COMICS

flowersフラワーコミックス

ブロンズの天使

1

さいとうちほ

Chiho Saito Presents

ブロンズの天使 1 さいとうちほ

flowers FLOWER COMICS

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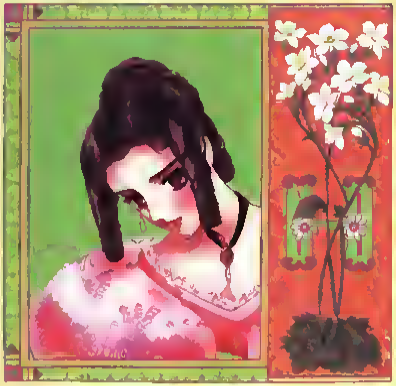


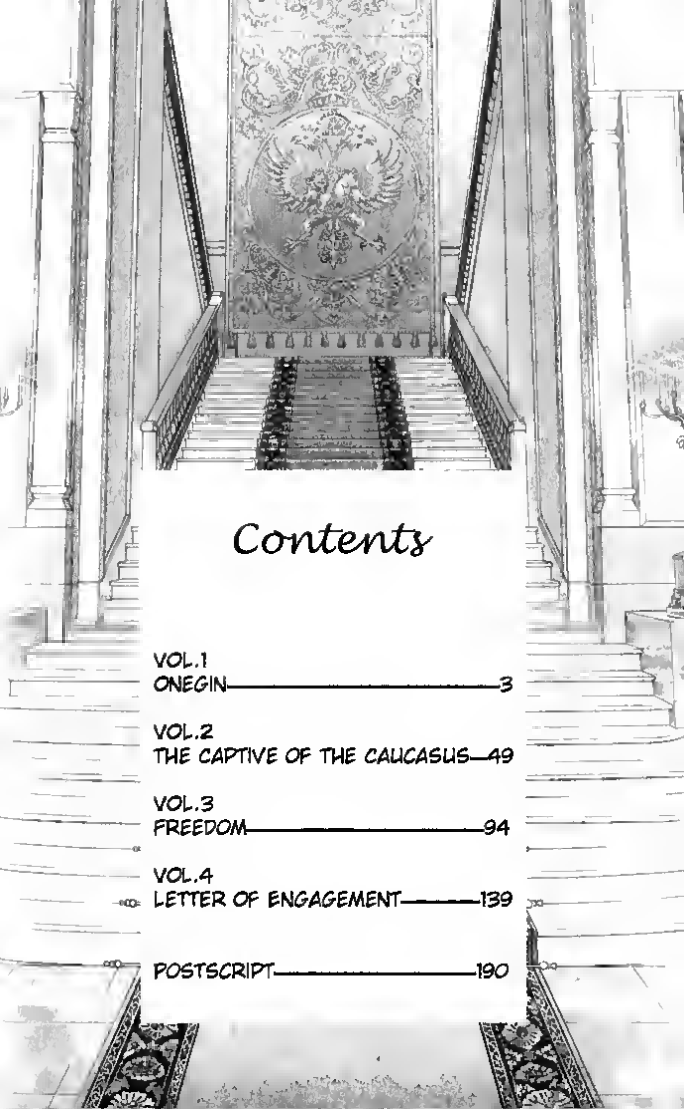
Russia's genius poet, Pushkin, loves the young and fair Natalia. Since she's a poor noble, her family expects her to marry a wealthy man, so they reject the passionate man.

A romantic love story set in nineteenth century Russia.

flowers フラワーコミックス

Bronze no Tenshi 1

Chiho Saito



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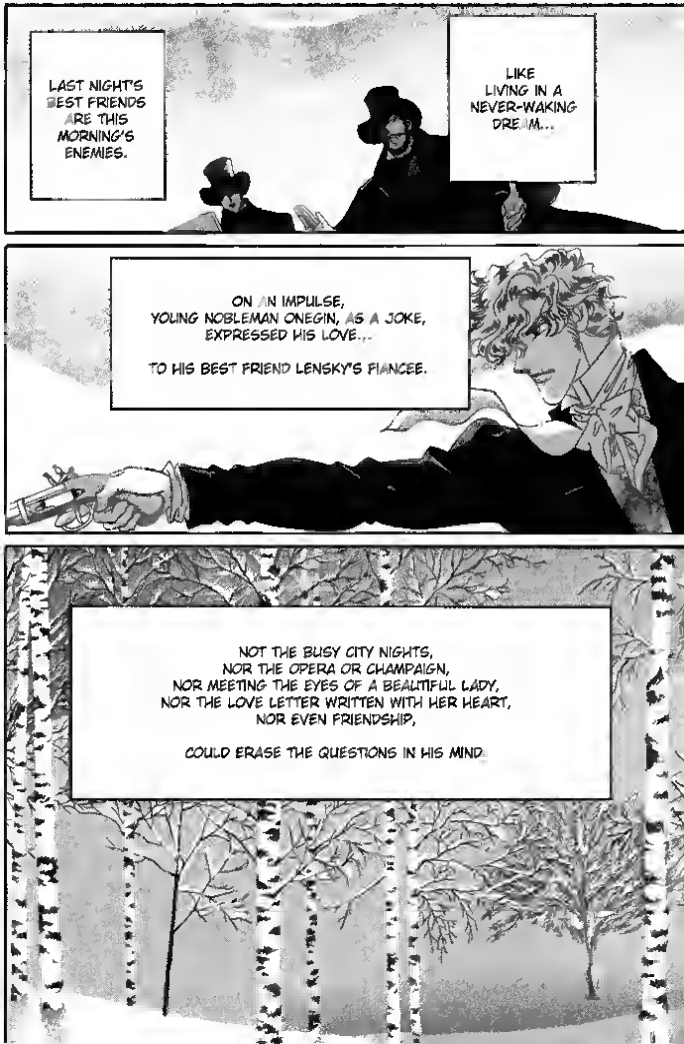
VOL.1 Onegin

A
DUEL.

AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD POET'S LOVE.
JEALOUSY,
ONLY WISHING FOR THE OTHER PERSON'S DEATH.


LAST NIGHT'S BEST FRIENDS ARE THIS MORNING'S ENEMIES.
LIKE LIVING IN A NEVER-WAKING DREAM...
ON AN IMPULSE, YOUNG NOBLEMAN ONEGIN, AS A JOKE, EXPRESSED HIS LOVE...
TO HIS BEST FRIEND LENSKY'S FIANCEE.
NOT THE BUSY CITY NIGHTS, NOR THE OPERA OR CHAMPAIGN, NOR MEETING THE EYES OF A BEAUTIFUL LADY, NOR THE LOVE LETTER WRITTEN WITH HER HEART, NOR EVEN FRIENDSHIP,
COULD ERASE THE QUESTIONS IN HIS MIND.

WOUNDED LENSKY'S PURE HEART, AND SO HE CHALLENGED HIM.
HIS OLDER FRIEND'S CRUEL IMPULSE,
AND THEN,
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

IT WAS AS IF,
THE SNOW CAUGHT THE LIGHT OF THE SUN,
GLITTERED BRIGHTLY,
AND ROLLED DOWN THE HILL.

ONEGIN RUNS OVER,
CALLING THE YOUNG POET'S NAME WITH NO REPLY.
SLOWLY
...
UNDER THE GLARING SUN, THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWER WILTS
AND THE POET'S LIFE FIRE DISAPPEARS

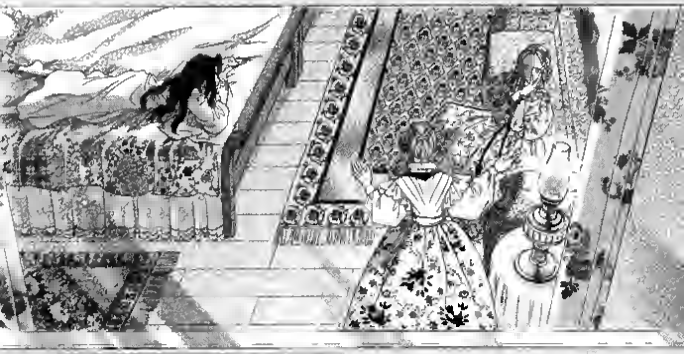
CHAPTER SIX END ...

THE VERSE NOVEL "EUGENE ONEGIN", WRITTEN BY ALEXANDER PUSHKIN, HIS EXISTENCE WITHERED AWAY."

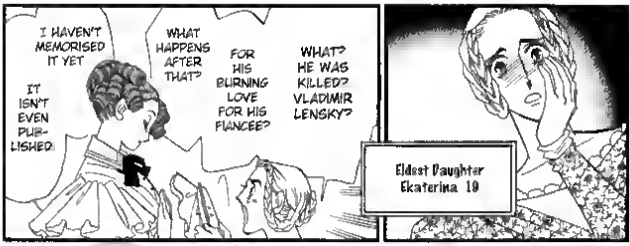
AND HAVING LIVED HIS SHORT LIFE,

NEVER REALIZED,

"HIS DREAMS WERE ...



Moscow 1828
The Goncharov Family


I HAVEN'T MEMORISED IT YET
IT ISN'T EVEN PUBLISHED.
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THAT?
FOR HIS BURNING LOVE FOR HIS FIANCEE?
WHAT? HE WAS KILLED? VLADIMIR LENSKY?
Eldest Daughter Ekaterina 19

AND ALL THE BEAUTIFUL PASSIONATE POEMS HE WROTE
"RUSLAN AND LUDMILA",
"THE FOUNTAIN OF BAHZE-SARAY"
PUSHKIN IS A GENIUS!
IT'S JUST AMAZING, BEING KILLED BY YOUR BEST FRIEND!
I HATE ONEGIN FOR KILLING LENSKY!
Second Daughter Alexandra, 17

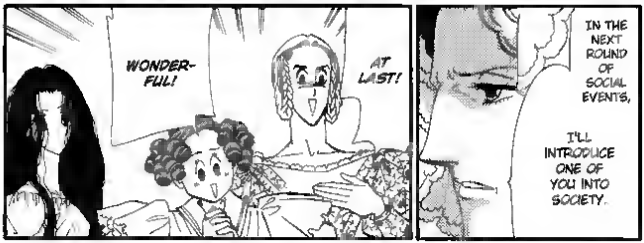
THAT'S SO STUPID.
Third Daughter Natalia, 16

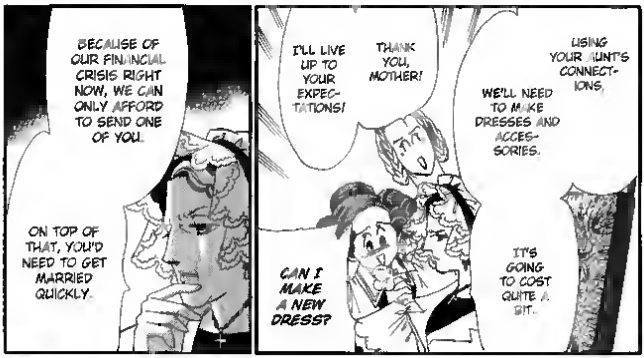
EVEN IF IT'S TALKING ABOUT DUELS AND LOVE, IT'S ALL POEMS AND NOVELS.
IT'S NOT THE TRUTH
IT'S JUST WORDS,
SO IT'S SILLY TO BE SO SERIOUS ABOUT IT...
OH NATALIA,
YOU DON'T EVEN UNDER-STAND STORIES
YOU'RE SUCH A CHILD!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
YOU NAIVE GIRL!
YOU BOOK-WORM!
STOP IT! BOTH OF YOU...!
BUT
IT'S JUST THE TRUTH

IF MOTHER FINDS OUT...
THUNK
MOM...
TE... TEN THIRTY
SLAP!
EKAT-ERINA, WHAT TIME IS IT?
ALEX-ANDRA!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO BE IN BED BY TEN?
Y... YES!

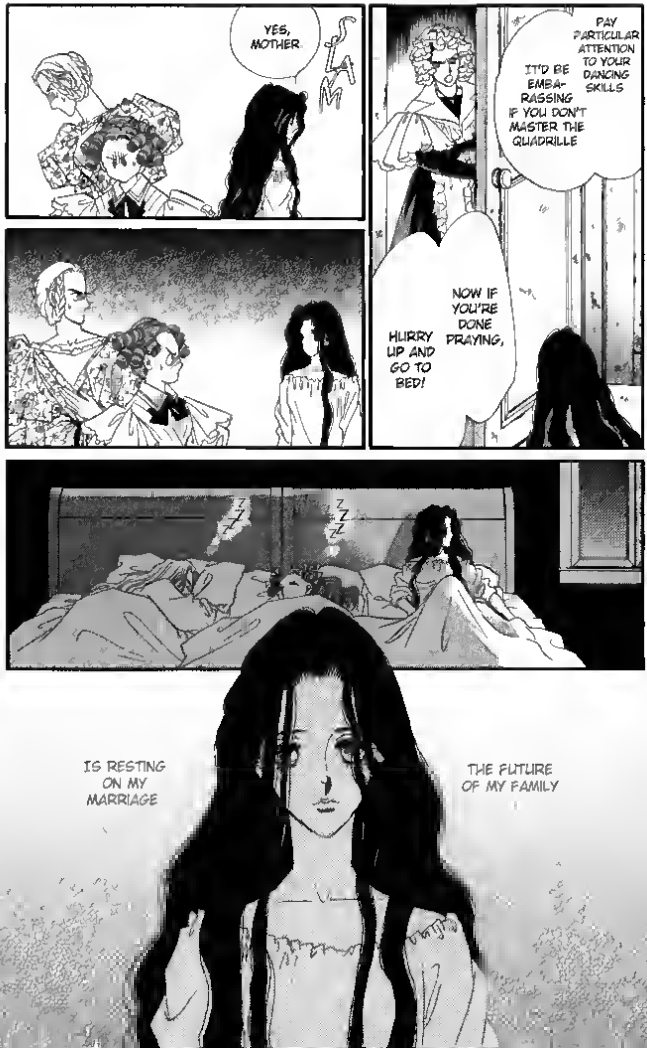
SLAP
SLAP
A NOVEL BY PUSHKIN
WHAT WERE YOU READING?
I HEARD YOU READING SOMETHING ALOUD, BUT IT WASN'T THE BIBLE
READING A NOVEL..
NOTHING WILL COME OUT OF
YES, MOTHER
NATALIA!
YOU MUST MARRY SOMEONE WEALTHY
BUT YOU CAN'T JUST MARRY ANYONE
NOTHING MATTERS UNLESS YOU MARRY
YES, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE JUST A GIRL WHO ISN'T MARRIED!
DANCING AND FRENCH
WHAT DOES A LADY NEED TO KNOW BEFORE MARRIAGE?
Third Son
Sergei 12

YOUR FATHER HAS BEEN SICK IN BED FOR THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS, AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM GETTING BETTER.
WE NEED TO RELY ON YOUR FUTURE HUSBANDS TO CARRY ON THE NAME OF THE GONCHAROV FAMILY.

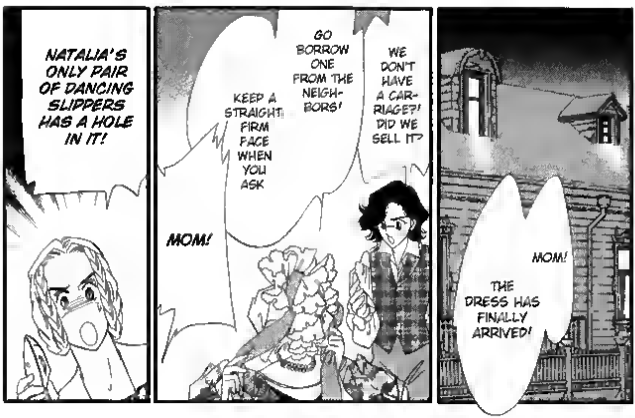

WONDER-FUL!
AT LAST!
IN THE NEXT ROUND OF SOCIAL EVENTS,
I'LL INTRODUCE ONE OF YOU INTO SOCIETY.


BECAUSE OF OUR FINANCIAL CRISIS RIGHT NOW, WE CAN ONLY AFFORD TO SEND ONE OF YOU.
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'D NEED TO GET MARRIED QUICKLY.
I'LL LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPEC-TATIONS!
THANK YOU, MOTHER!
USING YOUR AUNT'S CONNECT-IONS,
WE'LL NEED TO MAKE DRESSES AND ACCES-SORIES.
CAN I MAKE A NEW DRESS?
IT'S GOING TO COST QUITE A BIT.

WE'LL SEND NATALIA.
SHE HAS A FACE THAT LOOKS LIKE FLATTENED BREAD
AS FOR ALEXANDRA,
EKATERINA IS TOO BURLY AND HASN'T A HINT OF ELEGANCE
SIXTEEN IS STILL A BIT YOUNG,
BUT IF WE DRESS NATALIA UP A LITTLE, SHE'D BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT
THANK GOD FOR YOUR BEAUTY.
I WAS ALSO ONCE CALLED THE PALACE'S NUMBER ONE BEAUTY.


YES, MOTHER.
SLAM
PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO YOUR DANCING SKILLS
IT'D BE EMBARRASSING IF YOU DON'T MASTER THE QUADRILLE
NOW IF YOU'RE DONE PRAYING,
HURRY UP AND GO TO BED!
Z Z Z
Z Z Z
IS RESTING ON MY MARRIAGE
THE FUTURE OF MY FAMILY

I CANNOT IMAGINE LEGAN LIFESTYLE
UNLIKE MY BROTHER
I CAN ONLY REMEMBER US BEING POOR.
JUST LIKE OLD SHOES WITH HOLES
I CANNOT IMAGINE ANYONE WHO WOULD WANT TO MARRY SOMEONE LIKE ME
WHEN I HAVE TO SUPPORT MY POOR FAMILY


NATALIA'S ONLY PAIR OF DANCING SLIPPERS HAS A HOLE IN IT!
MOM!
KEEP A STRAIGHT FIRM FACE WHEN YOU ASK
GO BORROW ONE FROM THE NEIGHBORS!
WE DON'T HAVE A CARRIAGE?! DID WE SELL IT?
MOM!
THE DRESS HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!

YOU RIPPED IT YOURSELF, SO DON'T CRY!
NATALIA! YOUR EYES WILL GET SWOLLEN!
IT'S FROM PRACTICING TOO HARD!
YOU PRACTICALLY WORE THEM ALL DAY LONG.
I'LL LET YOU BORROW MINE!
YOURS ARE TOO BIG.
IF YOU DANCE GRACEFULLY ENOUGH, NO ONE WILL NOTICE
NATALIA, GET UP!
COME ON, STAND UP
WE'LL BE LATE TO THE PARTY!
YES, MOTHER
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR MUCH JEWELRY.
SO NOT WEARING MUCH JEWELRY WILL BRING OUT YOUR NATURAL BEAUTY
YOU'RE YOUNG, AND YOU HAVE A PRETTY FACE AND CARRY YOURSELF WELL.
HOW DOES SHE LOOK?

YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL, NATALIA!
AS LOVELY AS AN ANGEL

WOW!
YOU COULD WIN OVER ANYONE IN THAT!
BUT DON'T TALK, NATALIA,
OR YOU'LL GIVE YOURSELF AWAY
GOOD LUCK, NATALIA
YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE!
OUR SHINING STAR!

MISTER, HAVE YOU SEEN HER?
THE LADY WITH THE GOLDEN HALO THAT LOOKS LIKE AN ANGEL?
NATALIA GONCHAROV...
YES, I HAVE!
HER BEAUTY IS QUITE EXQUISITE!
EVEN I, WHO MAKE A HABIT OF STUDYING BEAUTIFUL LADIES...
HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH A BEAUTY BEFORE!!
HER WAIST IS AS SLIM AS A GODDESS!
SUCH A PERFECT FACE!!
HER YOUTHFUL CHEST WHEN SHE DANCES ⋮ !!
AND HER MYSTERIOUS GENTLE EYES...
AND HER ARMS ARE LONG AND PALE ♡
WHAT A BEAUTY...
AHH
SIGH

WHAT'S THE GENERAL OF THE TZAR'S SECRET POLICE DOING HERE?
IT'S BEN-KEN-DORF.
ISN'T PUSHKIN JUST A REGULAR POET?
WHY?
THEY'VE BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM SINCE THE KING INHERITED THE CROWN 3 YEARS AGO
HE'S DANGER-OUS
IT SEEMS THAT HE'S HERE TOO
THAT POET, PUSHKIN
OH MY ...
SO HE'S AN ENEMY OF THE CROWN
PUSHKIN HAS THE DANGEROUS MINDSET OF AN ANTI-MONARCHY REVOLUTIONARY
IS THERE ALWAYS SOMEONE KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM?

IN THE "DECEMBRIST" REVOLT",
THE LEADERS WERE CHANTING ONE OF PUSHKIN'S POEMS ABOUT FREEDOM.
THOSE PEOPLE REALLY LOOK UP TO HIM.
I HEARD THAT HE HIMSELF ALSO JOINED THE REVOLT WITH HIS DECEMBRIST FRIENDS.
AFTER THAT, PUSHKIN'S WORKS HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE THEY CAN BE PUBLISHED.
NOW YOU SEE HOW DANGEROUS HE IS?
THE KING HIMSELF CHECKS THEM!
HE'S A GUY THAT STANDS OUT IN A GOOD AND A BAD WAY.
HE'S REALLY MESSED UP!
TELL ME, WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE?
YOU'LL SEE WHEN YOU MEET HIM.
.....
YES, HE'S A DANGEROUS MAN, BUT
IF HE'S THAT DANGEROUS,
HE SHOULD BE SENT TO SIBERIA LIKE THOSE DECEMBRIST FELLOWS
WHAT'S THAT LAUGH FOR?
!
THAT'S SO MEAN!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU, PUSHKIN!
WAH
...

TIPTOE
BAST-ARD!
THAT BLACK MONKEY!
PLAYER!
I JUST SAW HIM NOW, AND HE'S TOTALLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME!
OH, MY
AND NOW HE ASKS, "WHICH KATRINA ARE YOU AGAIN?"
WE KISSED A YEAR AGO,
HE TOOK OUT HIS DRAFT OF "ONEGIN" CHAPTER FIVE TO USE —
WHEN PUSHKIN RAN OUT OF HIS GAMBLING MONEY,
AT AN OPERA HOUSE, WHEN I ASKED HIM TO STOP YELLING SO LOUDLY, HE SUDDENLY ASKED ME FOR A DUEL AND—
IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO NOW,
WHERE ARE YOU HIDING, PUSHKIN?
I WOULDN'T EVEN WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIM.
IF I WEREN'T HIS CHILD-HOOD FRIEND,

WHEN I'M PRETTY EVERYONE TREATS ME NICELY TOO!
WAIT
THIS IS FUN! IS THIS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE OUT IN PUBLIC?
I NEVER KNEW THAT DANCING AT A PARTY COULD BE THIS FUN!
I'M GLAD THAT I PRACTICED MY DANCING A LOT!
LOOK AT THAT.
SEE HOW HAPPY GONCHAROV'S DAUGHTER LOOKS —
JUST BECAUSE SOME MEN ARE TREATING HER NICELY

HM... LADY,
ONE OF YOUR SLIPPERS HAS A HOLE IN IT.
ぐいっ
OH—
MISS NATALIA!
SHE'S JUST A BROKE NOBLE'S DAUGHTER
TRYING TO FIND A RICH MAN TO MARRY, LIKE CINDER-ELLA

ANYWAY, THE HEAD OF THE GONCHAROV FAMILY IS STILL CRAZY,
EVER SINCE HE FELL OFF THAT HORSE.
WITH HER HUSBAND TURNING INTO A SISSY LIKE THAT,
HIS WIFE IS PROBABLY TRYING TO CATCH A WEALTHY YOUNG MAN.
THUMP
NO MATTER HOW PRETTY SHE IS
IS THERE REALLY A PRINCE THAT WOULD FALL FOR A RIPPED SLIPPER INSTEAD OF GLASS?
HO HO HO...
THERE AREN'T ANY CAREFREE MEN AROUND TO TAKE IN A POOR WOMAN
"CINDERELLA."

WHA—
WHAT'S
THIS!?
!?

IS THIS YOURS?
NO!
BUT ...
IT JUST FELL ON ME WHEN I WAS SLEEPING, SO...
WAIT!

NO!!
THIS IS YOURS, RIGHT?
LET ME SEE YOUR FE—
GRAB
BIOLOGICAL SKIN

HE'S NOT A PURE-BLOODED... —— RUSSIAN?
TURN
SORRY!! I HAD JUST HEARD YOUR VOICE, SO I THOUGHT YOU WERE A CHILD...
WAIT!
HE SAW MY SLIPPER WITH THE HOLE!
HE GRABBED MY FOOT!
PLEASE!
WHAT A PUSHY GUY!

...!
NO!!
WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
MOM!
IF YOU TURN THIS WAY, I WILL RELEASE YOU.
GOLD HALO AND ALL.

ALEXANDER SERGEEVICH PUSHKIN!
BENKEN-DORF—
LORD GEN-ERAL
I DIDN'T THINK I'D SEE YOU HERE

PUSHKIN... CAN IT BE THAT PUSHKIN?
THE ONE WHO WROTE ONEGIN?
COME ON...
LET'S NOT DO THIS NOW!
THAT WRITER THAT MAKES THINGS UP?
YOU'RE JUST WATCHING ME TO SEE IF I DO SOMETHING BAD,
AND THEN REPORT BACK TO THE TZAR ...
EVERY LAST DETAIL.
AND THAT LADY IS?
I JUST MET HER, I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME.
GO NOW
EH?
QUICKLY

STAYING IN MOSCOW,
TALKING TO PRETTY LADIES
THAT'S WHAT THE TZAR TOLD ME I COULD DO TWO YEARS AGO.
I DON'T REMEMBER MYSELF OR THE TZAR GIVING YOU PERMISSION FOR THE LADIES
THAT'S YOUR OWN VOLITION.
THAT LADY'S NAME IS...
NATALIA GONCHAROV
NATALIA.....
I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU, NATALIA!

MOM...
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR?
THERE WERE LOTS OF MEN WHO WANTED TO DANCE WITH YOU!
HURRY! THE SONG IS ENDING!
YOU HAVE TO DANCE WITH MORE MEN...
MOM
I MET PUSHKIN
PUSHKIN?
DON'T TELL ME YOU DANCED WITH HIM!
NO...
OH, GOOD THEN.
YOU SHOULD IGNORE THAT POOR POET.
BEING FAMOUS DOESN'T MAKE YOU RICH, ANYWAY...
THAT MAN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SENT AWAY, AND HE'S BARELY ALLOWED TO LIVE IN MOSCOW NOW BY THE TZAR'S GRACE.
WHY?
WHY IS HIS SKIN COLOUR SO DIFFERENT?
HIS ANCESTORS WERE ETHIOPIANS, I THINK.
I REMEMBER WHEN THE LATE TZAR PYOTR BOUGHT SOME AFRICANS FROM TURKEY.
ETHIOPIANS?

LONG AGO IT WAS FASHIONABLE IN EUROPE ...
TO DRESS AN AFRICAN CHILD UP AND DISPLAY HIM.
I REMEMBER TZAR PYOTR DID THAT KIND OF THING TOO.
A POET WITH AFRICAN BLOOD...
HOW INTERESTING

HEY?
I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU!!
GENERAL BENKEN-DORF IS ALSO HERE!
FUSH-KIN?
DELVIG …
I MET AN ANGEL THAT COULD ONLY SAY "NO".
WAIT A MINUTE …
THAT MAN WALKING TOWARDS MY DAUGHTER IS ——
LADY, MAY I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF THE NEXT DANCE WITH YOUR DAUGH-TER?
WHY, OF COURSE!
HEY! I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE TO DANCE!
I FOR-GOT!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT GENERAL BENKEN-DORF?
IT'S THE ANGEL WITH THE GOLD HALO
I'LL GO HAVE A DANCE WITH HER

HEY!
LADY NATALIA,
MAY I HAVE THE NEXT DANCE WITH YOU?
YOU INSOLENT FOOL!
I COULD TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT YOU
YOU'RE PUSHKIN, RIGHT?
I'M DANCING WITH HER RIGHT NOW!
PLEASE SAY "YES" THIS TIME!
THE NEXT DANCE!
GRAB
YOUR FAMILY'S FROM THE MONKEY
PYOTR BOUGHT OFF A HAREM FOR A BOTTLE OF RUM.

TAKE THAT BACK!
MY MOTHER'S GRAND-FATHER, ABRAM GANNIBAL,
WAS A PRINCE IN HIS OWN RIGHT, EVEN IF HIS LAND WAS SMALL!
HIS LAND WAS DEFEATED, AND HE WAS HELD AWAY IN THE SULTAN'S HAREM!
BUT BEFORE HIS DEATH, HE HAD GAINED THE TZAR'S TRUST AND EVEN BECOME A GENERAL!
MY FATHER'S LINE HAS BEEN IN RUSSIA SINCE THE 600'S!
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO BE INSULTING ME!
RIGHT,
THE PROBLEM IS YOU YOURSELF, CAUSING TROUBLE EVERYWHERE YOU GO
TAKE BACK YOUR INSULT!
IF YOU WON'T,
I'LL CALL OUT A DUEL!

OH GOD,
NOT AGAIN!
A DUEL?
Oh!
chatter
chatter
chatter
PLEASE LET ME THROUGH!
PLISH-KIN,
IF YOU MAKE MATTERS WORSE, I'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED!
FOR WHAT CRIME?
I ONLY ASKED FOR A DANCE!!
OH YEAH?
MOVE!
NATALIA! NATALIA!

A Ha Ha Ha Ha
I ACT BY THE TZAR'S WILL!!
THAT I WON'T ALLOW!
OR TO HAVE GUNS DRAWN!
AND A DANCE OF SWORDS,
GEN-ERAL!
YOU SAY THE FUNNIEST THINGS!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT CAME FROM YOU!!
PAT
PAT
NOW,
FOR THE DANCE...

I NEVER THOUGHT...
I'D HAVE TO CALMLY REJECT AN OFFER.
PLEASE,
MAY I HAVE YOUR HAND FOR A DANCE?
NO.
NA-TALIA!
DON'T!
LADY NATALIA GONCHA-ROV.

MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
QUITE CERTAINLY A NO.

Bronze no Tenshi
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VOL.2 The Captive of the Caucasus

April 1829 Moscow, The Ushakov House
OH DEAR, COME TO ME!
KARS, KARS!
GOODBYE, DEAR SUNLIGHT.
I SHALL DIE WITH MY LOVE.
.....
WHAT'S THIS, PUSHKIN?
"KARS", FROM THE POEM WRITTEN UNDER THE PICTURE OF THE WOMAN.

SO THIS "KARS"
IS IT "NATALIA"?
IT'S AN IMPENE-TRABLE FORTRESS IN TURKEY
TIGHT!
YOU WROTE HER NAME EARLIER ON YOUR DON JUAN'S LIST IN YOUR SISTER'S ALBUM.
NONE NENE
AND THE NAMES IN THE BOTTOM ARE JUST FOR FUN
YOUR SISTER TOLD ME THAT OUT OF THE 37 NAMES HERE, THE ONES WRITTEN ON THE TOP ARE SERIOUS LOVERS
H... HOW DID YOU KNOW?!
KYA HA HA HA

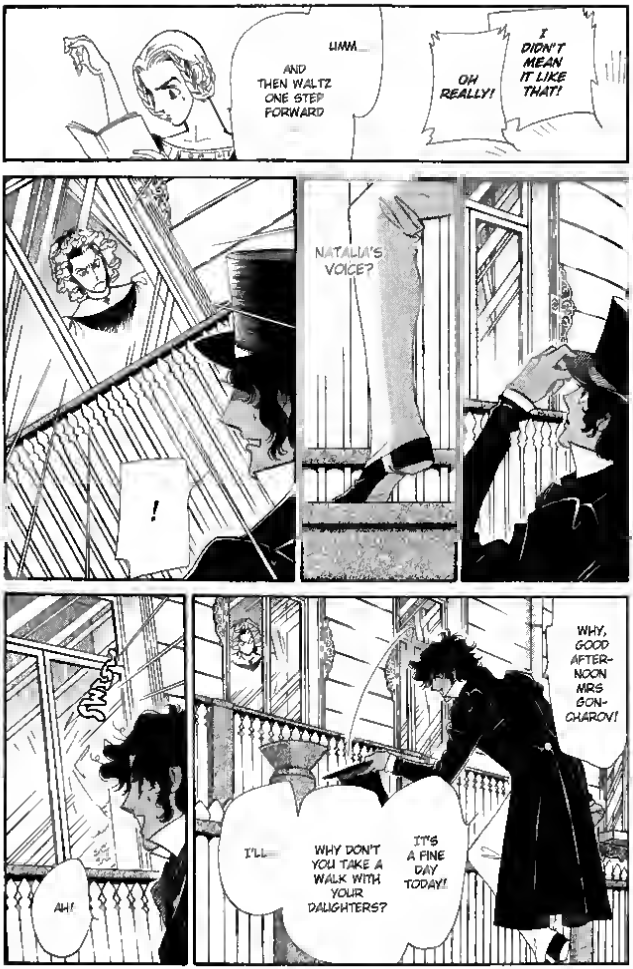
THAT'S WHY, SINCE YOU CAME BACK TO MOSCOW...
YOU'VE KEPT STALLING OUR ENGAGEMENT,
AND NEVER DID PROPOSE TO ME.
IT SAYS "NATALIA" AT THE VERY TOP
EVERYONE WOULD GET THAT.
OH...
FLIP FLIP
I'M NOT STUPID
I KNOW PERFECTLY WELL...
YOUR CRAZY PERSONALITY, AND WHERE YOU GET YOUR BRILLIANT IDEAS
THAT'S WHY I'LL NEVER HAVE YOU AS A HUSBAND
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT SAID YOU'D NEVER MARRY ME,
EKATERINA USHAKOV.
THAT WE SHOULD JUST BE FRIENDS
YOU GO AFTER WOMEN WITH THOSE SWEET PUPPY-DOG LOOKS,
AND ALL THE GIRLS FALL FOR IT
STILL, THIS PUPPY HAS ALREADY SWORN HIMSELF TO ONE MASTER.
THAT WOULD BE "NATALIA"?

I KNOW HOW TO LOVE A WOMAN PROPERLY
I COULD PROBABLY ALSO BE A GREAT HUSBAND
NO, HIS "MUSE".
I'LL COME AGAIN
HE COMES OVER EVERY SINGLE DAY NOW
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO MARRY HIM?
HE'S ALWAYS LOST IN HIS THOUGHTS,
AND I'M NOT HIS GOAL HERE
THEN IS IT ME?
EVERY DAY HE WALKS BACK DOWN NIKITSKAYA STREET
HIS REAL OBJECTIVE IS THERE

OH, BEAUTIFUL CITY,
OH UNHAPPY CITY.
WALKING AROUND IN THIS WORLD WITHOUT FREEDOM, BENEATH THE BLUE, COLD SKY.
STILL, I LOVE YOU AS YOU ARE,
DEAR CITY.
WHY?
BECAUSE THE GRACEFUL FEET OF MY DEAR ONE WALKS HERE.
HER SOFT HAIR CARESSED BY THE WIND.
THE GENIUS POET IS WALKING DOWN HERE AGAIN!
THAT'S PUSHKIN!
OH MY GOD!

ARE YOU LISTENING, NATALIA?!
THAT'S SO STUPID!
I ONLY SAW HIM AT THE PARTY TWICE!
THE SECOND TIME WE JUST PASSED EACH OTHER!
POLKA STEP EIGHT TIMES
FACE EACH OTHER, THEN TURN AND HOLD HANDS...
HE DIDN'T ASK ME TO DANCE AGAIN
HE WAS JUST THERE WHENEVER I TURNED AROUND
GOSH WHAT DID HE WANT?!
THAT'S ...
LOVE.
LOVE?

"LOVE"
LOVE IS ONLY IN STORIES.
EKAT-ERINA
WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE?
A POET'S LOVE
I'M REALLY A POOR SIXTEEN YEAR OLD
HE PROBABLY JUST SAW ME ALL MADE-UP
THAT GUY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ME.
THAT GUY
THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO AREN'T PRETTY ENOUGH TO WALK AROUND TOWN!
IS THAT AN INSULT?
I HATE PEOPLE WHO JUST LOOK AT YOUR APPEAR-ANCE!
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT!
MUST BE NICE BEING PRETTY
THAT'S LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!


UMM...
AND THEN WALTZ ONE STEP FORWARD
OH REALLY!
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!
NATALIA'S VOICE?
!
WHY, GOOD AFTER-NOON MRS GON-CHAROV!
IT'S A FINE DAY TODAY!
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A WALK WITH YOUR DAUGHTERS?
I'LL...
AH!

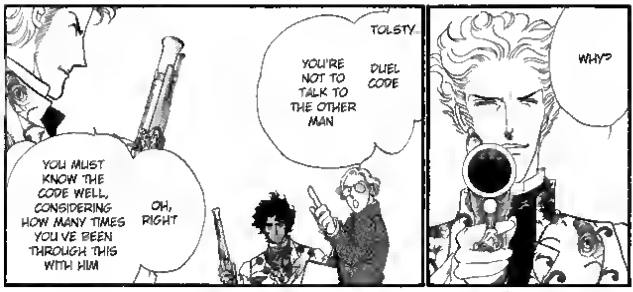
THINK, PUSHKIN, THINK
ISN'T THERE ANOTHER WAY TO MEET "KARS"?
BUT THE PARTY SEASON'S ENDED
"KARS" MOTHER
A TOUGH ONE, HM.
SHE WON'T LET ME IN THE HOUSE UNLESS IT'S FOR SOMETHING IMPORTANT
HERE TO REPORT MY LOVE LIFE TO THE TZAR, NO DOUBT.
THAT MAN IS HERE AGAIN.
ONE OF BENKENDORF'S MEN.

...FOR GOODNESS SAKE!
THAT ATTITUDE!
THAT DIRTY ATTIRE!
OH, DISGUSTING!
SLAM
STOP THIS AT ONCE!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THIS!
OW!
STOP IT!
KYA
NATALIA'S FACE IS HER CHARM!
THE FUTURE OF THE GONCHAROV HOUSEHOLD DEPENDS ON HER FACE!
ALEX-ANDRA!
NATALIA! YOUR FACE!
DID YOU GET A SCRATCH?!
MOM

NATALIA, YOU NEED TO BE MORE SERIOUS AND FOCUS ON THE THINGS IN FRONT OF YOU TOO!
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR NEGLECT THAT THERE WEREN'T ANY MARRIAGE PROPOSALS THIS YEAR!
YOU ONLY GOT THAT POOR WRITER'S ATTENTION!
MOTHER ...
BOTH OF THEM UNDERSTAND THEIR MISTAKES, SO...
SIGH
SINCE OUR DEBT KEEPS GROWING...
MOTHER'S BEEN IRRITABLE
OH, MOTHER DOESN'T CARE ABOUT MY FACE!
I'M SORRY
NATALIA

I JUST WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS MESS QUICKLY
BUT IF IT MAKES MOTHER HAPPY, THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO.
I DON'T THINK THAT MARRYING IS SUCH A GOOD THING...
FYODOR TOLSTOY
ALEXANDER PUSHKIN.
READY YOUR GUN FOR THE DUEL.

PUSHKIN,
A CHALLENGE FROM A LONG-TIME FRIEND
I'LL GLADLY ACCEPT. BUT


TOLSTY.
YOU'RE NOT TO TALK TO THE OTHER MAN
DUEL CODE
YOU MUST KNOW THE CODE WELL, CONSIDERING HOW MANY TIMES YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS WITH HIM
OH, RIGHT
WHY?

HE SAYS TO FORGET ABOUT IT
SO?
DELVIG
A joke about Pushkin getting whipped for writing an anti-monarchy poem
OH, THAT!
THAT WAS OVER TEN YEARS AGO!
...AS HE SAID...
DIDN'T YOU SPREAD FALSE RUMORS ABOUT ME?
GON-CHAROV?
THAT WAS A BUSY MONTH FOR ME
WANTED ME TO SURVEY THEIR LAND
MY OLD FRIENDS THE GON-CHAROV FAMILY
I CHAL-LENGED YOU THREE YEARS AGO, TOO
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS NOW?
Please talk through me!
OH, RIGHT... I WAS OUT OF TOWN THEN
YOU'RE ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE GONCHAROV FAMILY?
TOLSTOY, OLD FRIEND,

I HEARD THAT THE GONCHAROV'S NATALIA IS BEAUTIFUL
AND HAD A LOT OF ADMIRERS DURING THE WINTER COURTING SEASON
STILL, EVEN WITH THE SEASON OVER, THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY MARRIAGE PROPOSALS
IT'S NO SURPRISE
SINCE NO ONE WOULD WANT TO MARRY A POOR LADY, EVEN IF SHE IS A BEAUTY
WELL, UNLESS YOU'RE STUPID OR TOO NICE
DOES THIS CRAVAT* LOOK WEIRD?
*FRENCH NECKTIE
I DON'T WANT TO SAY THIS NOW, BUT
MARRYING A YOUNG, ICY BEAUTY...
WON'T BE ANY MERIT FOR AN ARTIST
SIGH

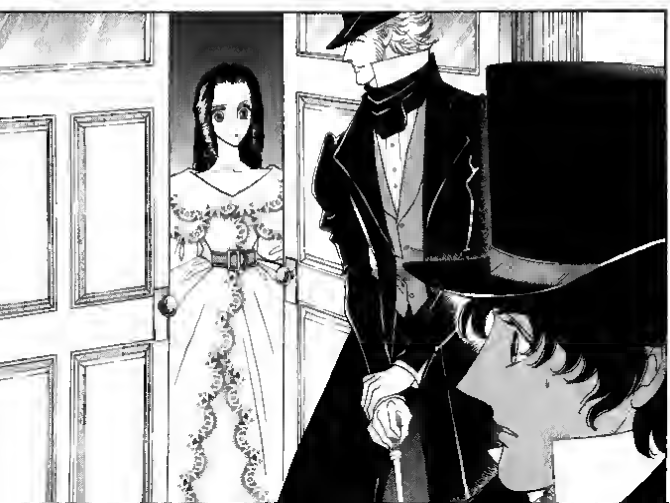
WE NOBLES
ARE SUPPOSED TO INHERIT PROPERTY FROM OUR FAMILY, SO WE DON'T HAVE TO WORK
BUT SINCE NATALIA'S FATHER, THE HEAD OF THE GONCHAROV FAMILY, WENT CRAZY WHEN SHE WAS TWO YEARS OLD—
HER MOTHER TOOK OVER HER GOVERNING WAS SO HORRIBLE THAT THEY LOST ALL THEIR PROPERTY AND THE PEOPLE WHO WORKED ON IT
IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT FALLEN NOBLES THEN THE PUSHKIN FAMILY IS THE SAME
NOWADAYS EXCEPT FOR THE HIGHEST OF NOBILITY
NINETY PERCENT OF US ARE IN THE SAME SITUATION
I'M BEING WATCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND TREATED LIKE A PRISONER
MY ONLY INCOME IS FROM MY BOOKS!
RUSSIA IS FALLING BEHIND!
IN FRANCE THERE WAS A REVOLUTION OVER 40 YEARS AGO!
THE NOBLES ARE BELOW THE TZAR,
AND THE PEASANTS ARE LIKE SLAVES UNDER THEM!
THIS GOVERNMENT IS OLDER THAN THE DARK AGES!

I'M ANNOYED AT HOW THE NOBLES TREAT LITERATURE LIKE A PLAYTHING
I WON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM THE TZAR OR THE NOBLES
I WANT TO BE SOMEONE WHO LIVES INDEPEN-DENTLY
BOTH MENTALLY AND ECONOMI-CALLY
NO ONE
HAS EVER MANAGED THAT BEFORE
I CAN PICTURE IT
THAT'S HOW PEOPLE SHOULD LIVE
INSTEAD OF BEING A COURT POET FOR THE TZAR
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RUSSIA
I'LL BE THE ONLY POET TO WRITE FOR THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE

CLIP

KNOCK KNOCK
I KNOW WHAT LADY GONCHA-ROV THINKS OF YOU.
YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING THIS GAMBLE.
THE ONLY THING IN THAT WOMAN'S MIND... IS MONEY, MONEY, AND MORE MONEY.
SHE PROBABLY THINKS OF YOU AS A NUISANCE.

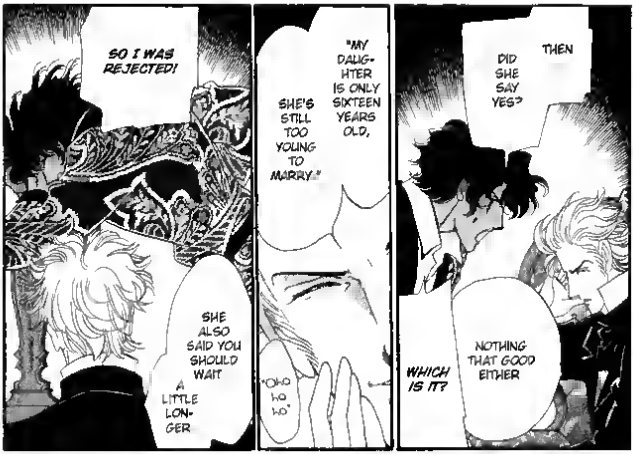
WHAT IS IT?
NO ...
I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO FACE NATALIA.
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.



PUSHKIN!
THE REASON FOR MY APPEARANCE HERE
IS EXPRESSLY BECAUSE...

PUSHKIN WANTS LADY NATALIA'S HAND IN MARRIAGE.
TOLSTOY!
I GOT LADY GONCHAROV'S ANSWER!
PUSHKIN!

I'LL DEPART ON A JOURNEY!
AS THIRTY LOOMS CLOSER I'VE GOTTEN THE URGE TO MARRY!
JUST LIKE OTHER WORLDY MEN OUT THERE,
I'VE ALREADY BOUGHT THE TRAIN TICKETS!
.....
MY BROTHER AND FRIENDS ARE FIGHTING AGAINST TURKEY RIGHT NOW,
SO I'LL TAKE MY GUN AND JOIN THE RUSSIAN FORCES!
I TRIED TO ESCAPE THE PRESSURE OF THE TZAR AND THE GOVERNMENT...
BY MARRYING, BUT....
I KNOW, I WAS REJECTED, RIGHT?
THE BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN SAID "NO" AGAIN, DIDN'T SHE?
NOTHING QUITE THAT BAD.
PUSH-KIN
LISTEN TO HER REPLY,
CALM DOWN


SO I WAS REJECTED!
SHE ALSO SAID YOU SHOULD WAIT A LITTLE LONGER
"MY DAUGHTER IS ONLY SIXTEEN YEARS OLD, SHE'S STILL TOO YOUNG TO MARRY."
"OHO HO HO."
THEN DID SHE SAY YES?
WHICH IS IT?
NOTHING THAT GOOD EITHER

"KARS" MOTHER IS PROBABLY PLANNING ON SELLING HER OFF TO A RICH OLD MAN.
AND I'M SUPPOSED TO JUST SIT BACK AND WAIT?
THERE WILL BE MORE SUITORS.
AS NATALIA GROWS OLDER,

I WON'T ALLOW IT!

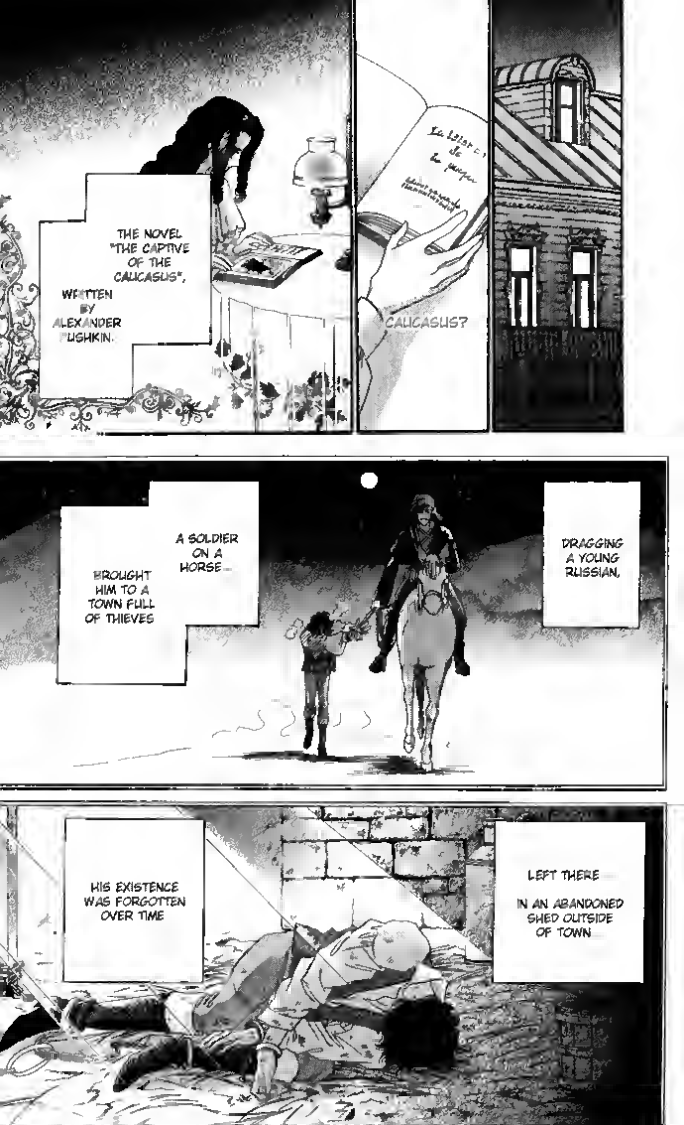
Lady Goncharov,
I heard your reply from Tolstoy.
As it wasn't a total refusal,
I still have hope.
However...
I'm leaving on a voyage this morning ...
Please forgive me if my sudden plans disturb you.
With the shadow of an angel inside my heart!
OH MY PUSHKIN HAS LEFT MOSCOW FOR CAUCASUS
THIS HAS BOUGHT US SOME TIME
LET'S FIND YOU A GROOM WHILE HE'S AWAY! ♡
DO MEN ALWAYS RUN AWAY LIKE THIS?
HE WAS SO RUDE AT FIRST

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT'S HE'S THINKING
YES, LORD BENKENDORF.
WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT! THIS TIME HE'S DONE IT FOR SURE!
CONTACT PASKEVICH, THE HEAD OF THE LOCAL TROOPS IMMEDIATELY!
TELL HIM THAT PUSHKIN HAS GONE TO FIGHT WITH THEM.
WHAT?! PUSHKIN WENT TO CAUCASUS?!
ALSO TELL HIM TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM WHILE HE S THERE.
DON'T LET HIM GET INVOLVED IN A FIGHT.
AND MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH THE FORMER DECEMBRIST.

DON'T KILL HIM, DON'T LET HIM LIVE...
TAKE HIS FREEDOM AWAY...
Moscow
Russia
Belgium
Ukraine
Kazakhstan
The Caspian Sea
Caucasus Mountains
The Black Sea
Georgia
Azerbaijan
Armenia
Kars
Turkey
Iran
Close to Asia
South, Far too the South,

My dear friend Tolstoy,
Have you received any news from Lady Goncharov?
I am traveling in the Caucasus Mountain Range, where I had fun when I was young.
Armenians, Georgians, Iraqies, and many other races...
Have also come to this holy place.
And I have finally
Come to the Kars fortress.

WHEN ALL IS DEATHLY SILENT
AND THE CURTAIN OF NIGHT DESCENDS ON THE CAUCASUS
THE STARS GLITTER BRIGHTLY IN THE SKY.
AND MY LONELY HEART...
BASES WITH THE MEMORY OF YOU.
The troops had already left chasing the Turks,
And the so-called undefeatable Kars has fallen...
KARS
MY KARS.

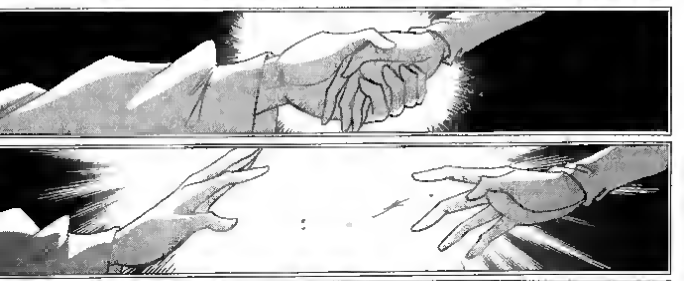

THE NOVEL "THE CAPTIVE OF THE CAUCASUS", WRITTEN BY ALEXANDER PUSHKIN.
CAUCASUS?
A SOLDIER ON A HORSE...
BROUGHT HIM TO A TOWN FULL OF THIEVES
DRAGGING A YOUNG RUSSIAN.
HIS EXISTENCE WAS FORGOTTEN OVER TIME
LEFT THERE... IN AN ABANDONED SHED OUTSIDE OF TOWN...

DREAMING OF A FREEDOM THAT NEVER EXISTED.
HE HAD LEFT HIS OWN COUNTRY
THE YOUNG MAN THOUGHT ABOUT HIS LOST LOVE AND GREW TIRED OF WONDERING ABOUT THE WORLD.
EACH DAY HE WAITS...
FOR THE SUNSET,
FOR HIS SAD LIFE TO SLOWLY END.
BUT EVERYTHING HAD ENDED.
FOR THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS
TO TAKE HIM IN THE THICK DARKNESS.
FAREWELL, BLESSED FREEDOM...

"LIVE"
THE POWERFUL FOREIGN WORD WAS SAID
FROM THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN'S LIPS...
"WHEN THAT TIME COMES I SHALL TAKE MY OWN LIFE."
"MY FATHER AND BROTHER ARE PLANNING TO SELL ME TO A RICH MAN FROM ANOTHER TOWN."
"ALTHOUGH I'M BEAUTIFUL THE TOWNSPEOPLE SAY I HAVE NO EMOTIONS."
"THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE I KNOW MY OWN FATE."
"HAS TURNED ME ENTIRELY TOWARDS YOU."
"SOME STRONG FORCE ..."
"GENTLE CAPTIVE, I LOVE YOU."

THEN ONE NIGHT ...
"YOU ARE FREE!"
"NOW ESCAPE!"
IS THAT WHITE VEIL FOR A WEDDING?

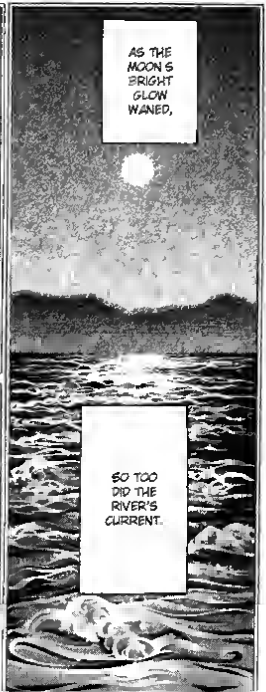
RUN WITH ME TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, TO THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAINS.
LET'S LEAVE THIS LAND.
"I WILL FOREVER ..."
"BE YOURS, UNTIL I DIE."



THAT HAND,
DID THE WOMAN HERSELF LET GO...
OR DID THE CURRENT SEPARATE THEM?

THE BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
THE YOUNG MAN SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR THE WOMAN.

IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SHE HAD DIED.
THERE WAS NOTHING TO BE HEARD ALONG THE BANKS OF THE RIVER.


AS THE MOON'S BRIGHT GLOW WANED,
SO TOO DID THE RIVER'S CURRENT.

WHY DOES EVERYONE LEAVE ME...
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T DIE?!

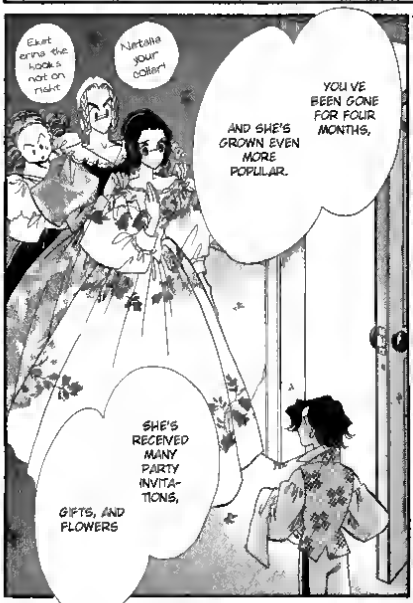
1829 September, Moscow
THE SOUND OF RAIN

BANG
BANG
BANG
WHO IS IT —
THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING?
IT'S STILL BEFORE BREAK-FAST.
PUSH-KIN'S HERE?!
HURRY NATALIA, YOU HAVE TO GET DRESSED!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HIM, COMING THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING!

PUSH-KIN
FORGIVE OUR APPEAR-ANCE
WE'VE JUST WOKEN UP

I WANT TO SEE LADY NATALIA

I NEEDED TO SEE YOUR DAUGHTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
I JUST RETURNED TO MOSCOW, SO I CAME BY FOOT.
I'M SORRY.
RUB RUB
SERGEI!
YOU LET HIM IN DRIPPING WET?


Natalia, your sister!
Elvira, the kids are not on night
YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR FOUR MONTHS,
AND SHE'S GROWN EVEN MORE POPULAR.
SHE'S RECEIVED MANY PARTY INVITATIONS,
GIFTS, AND FLOWERS

LIM...
MAY I SEE LADY NATALIA?

MOTHER'S EXAGGERATING...
SH!
JUST YESTERDAY A RICH BACHELOR CAME TO REQUEST THE SAME THING AS YOU...
A PROPOSAL?
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T SHARE THE DETAILS...
Ho ho ho
TO AN OUTSIDER...
NATALIA, PLEASE SHOW THIS YOUNG GENTLEMAN TO THE DOOR.
HE'S ABOUT TO LEAVE...
YES, MOTHER.
AN OUTSIDER

OH...
I ALMOST FORGOT
I WANTED TO GIVE YOU THIS

PLEASE ACCEPT THEM
DROP
I THINK THEY'RE THE RIGHT SIZE
ONE OF YOUR SLIPPERS HAS A HOLE IN IT.
THIS IS YOURS, RIGHT? LET ME SEE YOUR FEET.

I DON'T NEED THEM!
YOU...
YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL

I DON'T EVEN UNDER-STAND .. WHY YOU LIKE ME!
YOU'RE YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND MY LONE-LINESS
HOW I ...
NATALIA!

CLACK
IS THERE ANY HOPE?
CAN'T I EVEN HAVE THE SLIGHTEST HOPE?
AH
PLEASE LEAVE MASTER PUSHKIN

Bronze no Tenshi

Chiho Saito

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STORM IN HEAVEN
STORMINHEAVEN.NET
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Vol.3 Liberty

April 1830, Moscow
Galitzine Mansion

THE TSAR!
NICHOLAS I HAS ARRIVED!
YOUR MAJESTY!
EVERYONE ENJOY YOURSELVES TONIGHT, TO WELCOME NICHOLAS I.
OH!

OH MY
HE'S SO HANDSOME
THE RUMORS ARE TRUE,
HE'S LIKE ZEUS.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
YOUR MAJESTY,
TONIGHT, BEFORE THE MASKED BALL,
WE HAVE SOMETHING ELSE PLANNED FOR YOU.

WE'VE GOTTEN ALL OF MOSCOW'S BEAUTIFUL LADIES TO PERFORM.
THEY WILL BE PERFORMING THE ROMAN EPIC OF THE "AENEID".
IT'S ABOUT THE HERO OF TROY, AENEAS BEING WELCOMED BY DIDO, THE QUEEN OF CARTHAGE.
DIDO WILL BE PLAYED BY LADY VOLKONSKAYA.
AND LADY URANOVA WILL PLAY THE GODDESS HELENA.

WHO'S THAT?
OH, HAS SHE CAUGHT YOUR EYE?
SHE PLAYS THE QUEEN'S SISTER, ANNA
LADY NATALIA GONCHAROV.
IT'S SAID THAT PRINCE MESHCHERSKY HAS A LIKING FOR HER.
AND PUSHKIN EVEN ASKED FOR HER HAND IN MARRIAGE, BUT WAS REJECTED
PUSHKIN?

NATALIA!
NATALIA!
PLEASE LET ME THROUGH!
OH
HE SAID "THE LADY PLAYING ANNA IS ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL. SHE'S LIKE A PAINTING".
OH NATALIA!
DID YOU HEAR WHAT HIS MAJESTY SAID?!
PAT
LADY NATALIA.
HE'S CALLING YOU!

THE GONCHAROV FAMILY DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY NEW DRESSES
YOU HAVE TO GET HIM TO PROPOSE TONIGHT!
THE PRINCE IS A VERY RICH AND KIND MAN
MAYBE THE WORDS OF THE TSAR MADE HIM DECIDE TO PROPOSE TO YOU
YES, MOTHER
ARE YOU GOING TO WEAR THAT DRESS TO THE PARTY AFTER THIS?
YES
MY OUTFIT IS FROM THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, DO YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE PLAIN?
NO.
GIRLS

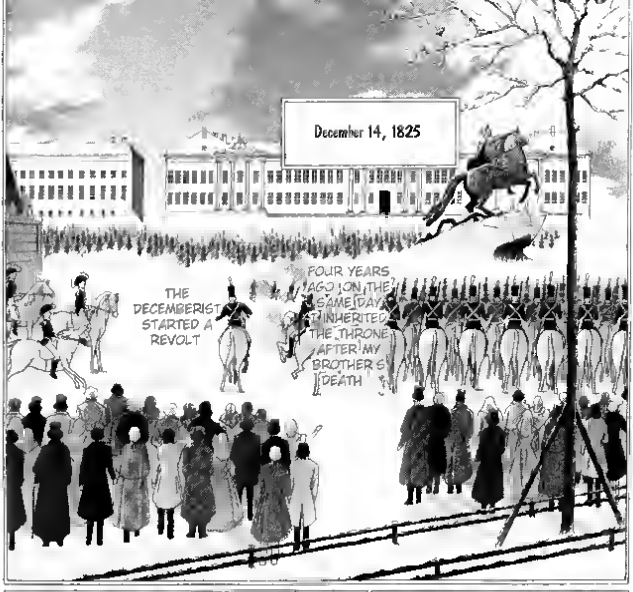
LADY NATALIA,
I'M TODAY
YOU LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL
THAT EVEN THE TSAR COMMENTED ON YOU.
NO.
I'D LIKE YOU TO SAY SOMETHING
OTHER THAN 'YES' OR 'NO'
I...
DON'T LIKE TALKING,
SINCE I'M SCARED I'LL SAY SOMETHING INAPPROPRIATE.
I'M SCARED I'LL LET MY MOTHER DOWN
STAND
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL!

EH?
WHY DID I SUDDENLY...
REMEMBER PUSHKIN'S FACE?

EVER SINCE THE RUMORS OF LADY NATALIA AND MESHCHERSKY BEGAN,
PUSHKIN NEVER COMES TO MOSCOW ANYMORE
HE USUALLY TALKS SO MUCH THAT
IT FEELS KIND OF LONELY WITHOUT HIM.
WELL, I LIKE IT THIS WAY.
SINCE ALL THE WOMEN CAN FEEL SAFE WITHOUT HIM AROUND!
HA HA HA
...I SEE THAT PUSHKIN IS POPULAR AROUND HERE.
NOT AS MUCH AS YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.
WOMEN ALL THROUGHOUT MOSCOW SIGH WHEN THEY SEE YOU.
YOU MAJESTY EVEN READS PUSHKIN'S WORKS, TO INSPECT THEM, DO YOU NOT?
IS IT NOT TRUE THAT YOU LIKE POEMS, YOUR MAJESTY?
WE HAVE PRIDE IN YOU.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN EASILY FIT INTO YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE.
I HAVE NEVER READ ANY OF PUSHKIN'S WORKS.

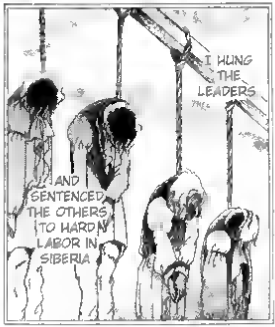
THE TSAR DOESN'T NEED ANY COSTUMES
I THINK THAT THE CLOTHES OF ZEUS WOULD SUIT YOU PERFECTLY
YOUR MAJESTY, WHAT ARE YOU WEARING TO THE COSTUME PARTY LATER TONIGHT?
OH, YOU'RE JOKING
HO
BENKENDORF
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT
SNAP

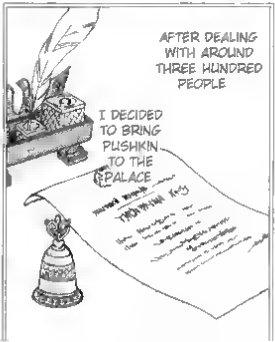
I HAVE OBTAINED SOME LETTERS THAT ARE NOT SUPPORTIVE OF YOU.
I HAVE THREE OF THEM HERE. WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACT UPON THEM NOW?
MY MOST TRUSTED GENERAL
YOU COULD HAVE REPORTED TO ME TOMORROW MORNING
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I SEE
ARREST ALL THREE OF THEM.
ANY-THING ELSE?
PUSHKIN HAS
WE PUNISHED HIM AFTER HE LEFT FOR CALICASUS,
BUT NOW HE TELLS US HE WANTS TO TRAVEL WITH SOME CHINESE MERCHANTS
I THINK HE'S DISPLEASED THAT HIS LATEST WORK, BORIS GODUNOV, WAS NOT APPROVED.
PUSHKIN AGAIN?
HE'S DISAPPEARED AGAIN WITHOUT OUR PERMISSION.
PUSHKIN


December 14, 1825
THE DECEMBERIST STARTED A REVOLT
FOUR YEARS AGO I ON THE SAME DAY INHERITED THE THRONE AFTER MY BROTHER'S DEATH

I GAVE NO QUARTER ...
AND THEY TRIED TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT
THEY DIDN'T LIKE THE FACT THAT I'D INHERITED THE THR

MY DECEASED BROTHER, ALEXANDER I, HAD BEEN FURIOUS OVER THE POEM, AND HAD BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON PUSHKIN.
I CALLED FOR HIM BECAUSE HE, THEN STILL 18, HAD WRITTEN DEMOCRATIC POEM CALLED "ODE TO LIBERTY."


I HUNG THE LEADERS
AND SENTENCED THE OTHERS TO HARD LABOR IN SIBERIA


AFTER DEALING WITH AROUND THREE HUNDRED PEOPLE
I DECIDED TO BRING PUSHKIN TO THE PALACE

ALL OF THE DECEMBRISTS
HAD FOUGHT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF PUSHKIN'S DEMOCRATIC POEMS
LOOK
ISN'T HE SHAKING FROM THE FEAR OF MEETING THE TSAR FOR THE FIRST TIME?
JUST BE WORRIED AT THE PRESENT SIBERIA TOO
A DARK-SKINNED MAN THREE YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME
WROTE SUCH A POEM

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, YOUR MAJESTY!
I CAUGHT A COLD ON THE WAY HERE, AND WAS BROUGHT IN WITHOUT ANY PROPER TREAT-MENT!
AHCHOO
AH

I HATE NOVELS AND POEMS...
MATHEMATICS AND THE MILITARY ARE MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL.

I'LL MEMBER HIS POEM THE ONE THAT ANGERED MY BROTHER.
HE TALKS THE SAME WAY ..
CAREFREE AND INDEPENDENT, LIKE THE POEM, "ODE TO LIBERTY"

"PROUD SINGER OF FREEDOM!
COME, TEAR DOWN FROM ME THE WREATH,
SHATTER THE PAMPERED LYRE...
I WANT TO SING OF FREEDOM TO THE WORLD,
TO STRIKE AT VICE ON THRONES."
"THE CHARGES OF A FICKLE FATE,
TYRANTS OF THE WORLD! TREMBLE!
AND YOU, TAKE COURAGE AND HEED,
RISE UP, FALLEN SLAVES!
LOUIS XVI PRESSES HIS UNCROWNED HEAD
TO THE GUILOTINE STAINED WITH THE BLOOD OF TRAITORS
DESPOTIC VILLAIN!
I HATE YOU AND YOUR THRONE.
YOUR DESTRUCTION, YOUR COMRAD'S DEATH,
I SEE WITH CRUEL JOY."

"WHEN MIDNIGHT STARS SHINE DOWN
UPON THE GLOOMY RIVER NEVA

THE POET LOOKS ON
AS IN THE OBLIVIOUS PALACE
HIDDEN ASSASSINS GATHER

THE UNFAITHFUL GUARD IS SILENT
LIKE BEASTS THE ASSASSINS RUSH FORWARD

INGLORIOUS STRIKES WILL FALL
THE CROWNED VILLAIN WILL PERISH."

THAT WAS ABOUT MY BROTHER ALEXANDER. IT'S PLAN TO ASSASSINATE HIS FATHER, WHICH HE ACTUALLY DID.

"THE PEOPLE'S LIBERTY AND PEACE WILL BECOME ETERNAL GUARDIANS OF THE THRONE."

PUSHKIN

"SO TAKE HEED, O KINGS

NEITHER PUNISHMENTS, NOR REWARDS, NOR DARK PRISONS, NOR ALTARS CAN YOU RELY ON."

I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU

MANY OF YOUR FRIENDS WERE INVOLVED IN THE RIOT

WHAT WOULD YOUR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN?
IF YOU TOO HAD BEEN IN ST. PETERS-BURG, ON THAT DAY,
GULP
I CANNOT FORGET
HIS FACE AS HE ANSWERED.
...YOUR MAJESTY,
I...

WOULD HAVE REVOLTED RIGHT NEXT TO MY FRIENDS
MOST LIKELY...
RIGHT THEN, I KNEW WHERE I STOOD WITH HIM...

CHATTER
CHATTER
WOW
WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE DRESSED UP,
NO ONE WILL NOTICE YOU SLIPPING IN,
PUSH-KIN

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
I JUST SAW GENERAL BENKEN-DORF
DO YOU THINK SO?
HE HE HE
I KNOW
THE MINSTREL'S COSTUME DOESN'T SUIT ME!
I BROUGHT TWO COSTUMES AND EVEN LET YOU CHOOSE FIRST
YOU TOOK SINBAD
OF COURSE!

IF I WORE THE MINSTREL'S OUTFIT,
IT'D JUST ANNOUNCE THAT I'M PUSHKIN!
CLICK
A GOD-DESS ...
DARN IT
WHAT!
YOU HAVE TO TRY HARDER!
I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO GET YOUR HOPES UP!
THAT'S
PRINCE MESH-CHERSKY
KARS' MOTHER FAVORS HIM.

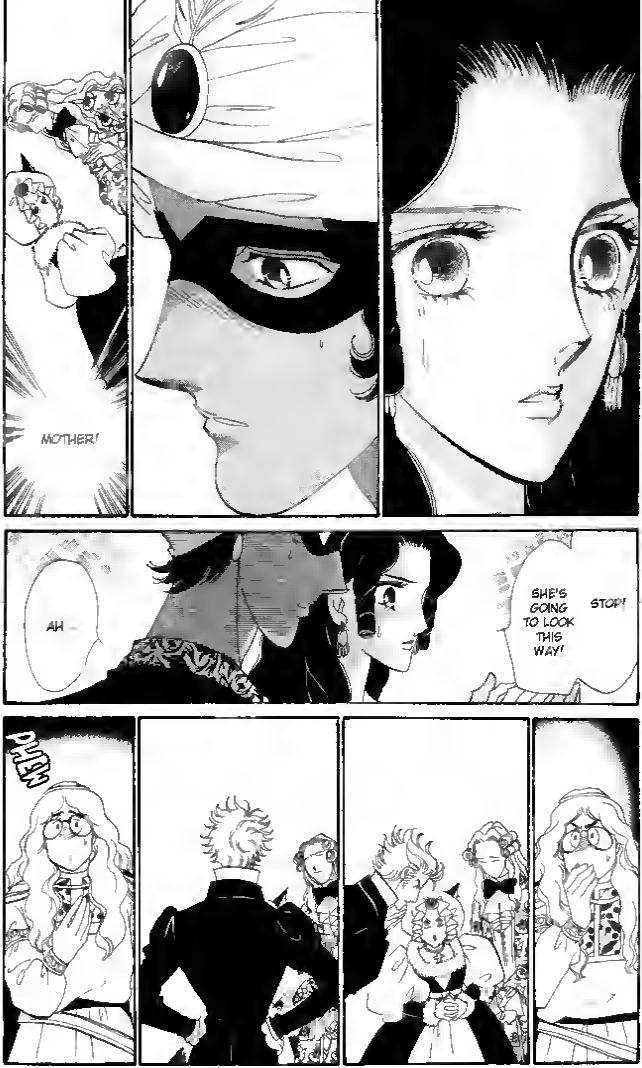
YOU'RE THE POET WHO WROTE ALL THOSE INSPIRING THINGS!
UP TO ME?
EVERYTHING IS UP TO YOU AFTER THAT
THEN, DURING THE SONG, WE'LL SWITCH AND YOU CAN DANCE WITH HER.
I'VE ARRANGED THINGS SO I'LL HAVE A DANCE WITH HER
I CAN'T TALK TO NATALIA LIKE I TALK TO OTHER WOMEN
HER STARE MAKES IT SEEM LIKE SHE'S READING MY MIND
GOD, YOU'RE A MAN AFRAID OF YOUR TRUE LOVE
WHAT GOOD IS A "CRICKET" THAT DOESN'T CHIRP?
YOU'RE PUTTING YOUR OLD COLLEGE NICKNAME TO SHAME!
THERE YOU TWO ARE

FYODOR TOLSTOY
HA HA HA HA
THAT'S HORRIBLE.
I KNOW THE MINSTREL WAS A BAD IDEA!
THAT'S NOT IT, DELVIG.
LADY GONCHAROV IS DESPERATE TO GET HER HANDS ON A RICH MAN.
THE FAMILY DOESN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO BUY NATALIA NEW CLOTHES FOR THE NEXT SEASON.
THAT MAN TONIGHT SEEMS LIKE HE'LL GO FOR IT.
THE TSAR'S WORDS TOWARDS NATALIA HAD THE RIGHT EFFECT.
IF THAT HAPPENS, I'LL PROBABLY DIE.
I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU, TOLSTOY.
AND I JUST RECENTLY PUBLISHED MY NEW WORK...
HAH?
LIFE IS A GAMBLE!
YOU LOSE YOUR CHANCE AT WINNING WHEN YOU ACCEPT DEFEAT!
YOU CAN'T LOSE YOUR CHANCE!
I'LL GO TALK TO THEM TO GIVE YOU TIME!
AS YOU'D EXPECT FROM THE KING OF GAMBLERS.

THE FINAL DECISION WILL BE NATALIA'S
IF YOU CAN'T GET HER TO ANSWER YOU THEN CONSIDER YOURSELF THE LOSER.
AND GIVE IT UP, PUSHKIN
MOTHER AND THE PRINCE HAVE BEEN TALKING FOR A LONG TIME
I WONDER IF THEY'VE DECIDED ON...
MY MARRIAGE
LADY NATALIA.
YOU'RE VERY BEAUTIFUL TODAY.
THERE'S A FAMOUS POEM WRITTEN ABOUT YOU
DO YOU KNOW OF IT?
NO
IF IT'S SOMEONE MOTHER'S SATISFIED WITH I'M OKAY WITH IT
AND YET
IT BEGINS LIKE THIS.
"I DON'T CARE WHERE BUT LET'S GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY TOGETHER."
YET...

WANT TO DO?
LIS
WHAT DO I
HERE
WHY?
"SOME-WHERE WHERE WE COULD BE ALONE AT PEACE."
WHAT CAME AFTER THAT?
OH, THAT MAN MIGHT KNOW THE REST!
WHAT IS THIS FEELING? MY HEART FEELS SO TIGHT
WHA
DO I
WANT
IT CONTINUES LIKE THIS
"SOME-WHERE FAR, FAR AWAY"
SLIDE

"MY PROUD LADY— IF WE COULD BE LEFT IN PEACE, ANYWHERE IS FINE."
"MY PROUD LADY ?"
IS THIS ABOUT ME?
"LET'S GO TO THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA"
"OR TRAVEL TO BEAUTIFUL PARIS."
THIS POEM...
PUSH-KIN!


MOTHER!
AH...
SHE'S GOING TO LOOK THIS WAY!
STOP!
PHEW

THAT I AM WITH THIS MAN'S MISTRESS...
WHY AM I KEEPING THIS FROM MY MOTHER?
OH!
"FRIEND, PLEASE TELL ME"
"THE YOUNG MAIDEN THAT I LOVE WITH ALL MY HEART?"
"WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO FORGET ABOUT HER,"
"FROM THIS HAPPINESS"
"WILL I EVER LOSE MY PASSION FOR HER?"

"OR WILL THERE BE A DAY..."
IT'S SO COMFORTING
"WHEN THE MAIDEN WILL FOLLOW MY FOOTSTEPS..."
"FOR SHE HAS THE SAME FEELINGS I HAVE FOR HER?"
HIS VOICE

MAY I STILL HAVE HOPE?

WHAT A SELFISH MAN...
PLEASE ANSWER
THIS TIME, TELL ME, "YES"
T... TSAR!

WHAT?!
PLEASE
DANCE WITH ME
THE TSAR IS ASKING NATALIA TO DANCE!
YOU CAN'T DECLINE AN OFFER BY THE TSAR!
PLEASE WAIT!
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO MY BELOVED TSAR!

PLEASE RETURN THE LADY NATALIA TO ME.
I WOULD LIKE HER REPLY...
TO MY PROPOSAL.
OH, IT'S YOU.
YOU'RE OUT OF PLACE PUSHKIN

AHHH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, PUSHKIN?!
THAT MAN!
MADAM, ARE YOU OKAY?
PUSHKIN!
HIDING AND NOW APPEARING HERE...!
I WAS NEVER HIDING
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR ORDERS
EVEN NOW, I HAVEN'T BROKEN ANY AGREEMENTS!
DON'T JOKE WITH ME!
WHY?
HOW COULD HE SAY SUCH A THING TO THE TSAR? ISN'T HE AFRAID OF THE ALL-POWERFUL TSAR?

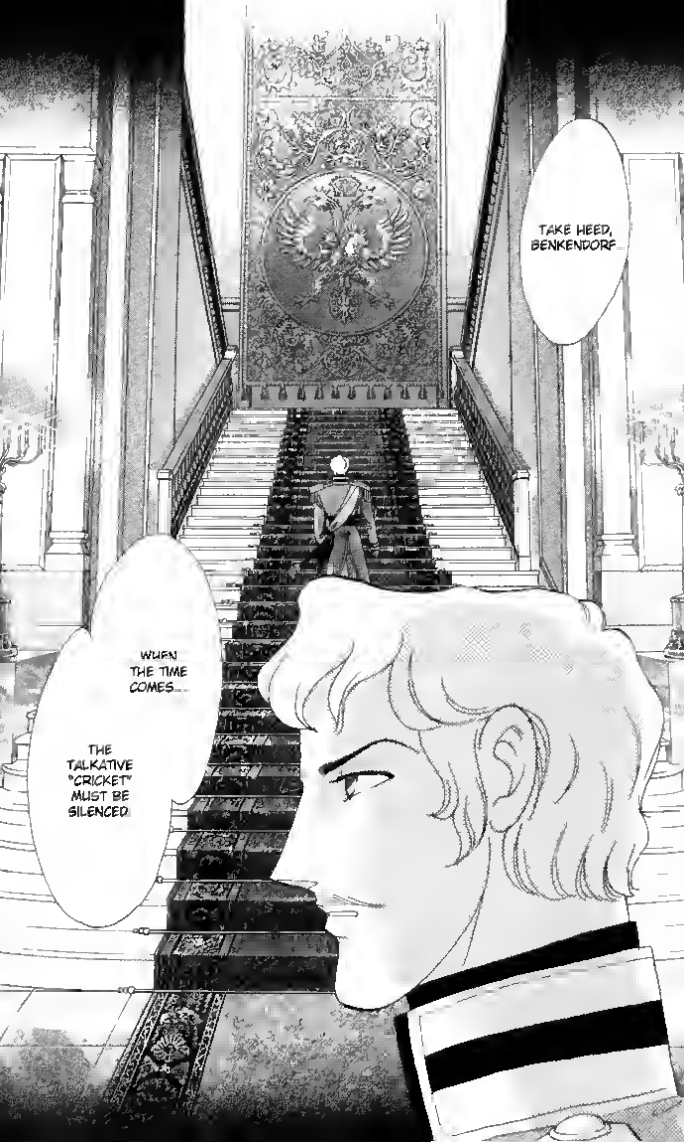
SURROUNDED BY EVERYONE?
RIGHT NOW?
HE'S JUST RISKED HIS LIFE TO HEAR YOUR ANSWER.
ANSWER PUSHKIN'S QUESTION
LADY NATALIA GONOCHA-ROV
YES!
IS THIS TO EMBARRASS PUSHKIN?

I HAD
PLANNED
TO TELL HIM "YES".

YES
LADY NATALIA!

TO RISK YOUR LIFE FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME,
YOU'RE SO STUPID!
YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT
YOU'RE...
SUCH A FOOL!

IT'S LIKE THE TSAR SAID...
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
HIS IMPULSIVENESS ALSO EARNED HIM THE NAME "SPARK"
IT WAS "CRICKET", YOUR MAJESTY.
WAS IT "GRASS-HOPPER" OR "ROACH"—?
HIS NICKNAME IN SCHOOL,
BENKEN-DORF.
YES, YOUR MAJESTY?


TAKE HEED, BENKENDORF.
WHEN THE TIME COMES...
THE TALKATIVE "CRICKET" MUST BE SILENCED.

Bronze no Tenshi

Chiho Saito

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STORM IN HEAVEN
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Vol. 4
Letter of Engagement

EVEN THOUGH THE "CRICKET" WILL DIE EVENTUALLY
THE POEMS THAT HE WRITES ARE VERY POPULAR
THEREFORE I NEED TO ELIMINATE HIM WITHOUT LOWERING THE TSAR'S REPUTATION...
HIT HIM WHEN HE LEAST EXPECTS IT BENKENDORF

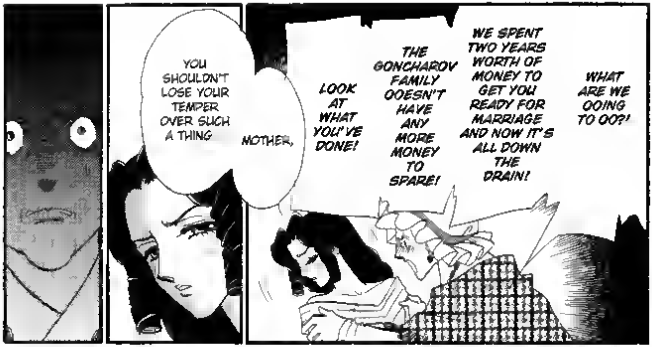
СЕ́ВЕРНЫЙ Л
Newspaper Company Northern Bee
THE "CONTEMPORARY" DENOUNCES THE NOVEL "FALSE DMITRIY", BY BULGARIN.
GRIND
WHAT?! YOU'RE DISTURBING MY SUPPER!
BULGARIN! BUL!
CHOKE
GENERAL BENKENDORF IS HERE TO SEE YOU!
STRIKE FROM THE SHADOWS
WHEN THE SNOW MELTS AT THE BEGINNING OF SPRING
PUSHKIN,
YOU'VE CROSSED THE LINE OF THE LAW,
AND YOU SHALL EVENTUALLY PAY FOR IT.
February 1830, Moscow

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME ALL THE WAY TO THIS FILTHY PLACE!
IF YOU HAD CALLED, I'D HAVE COME TO YOU!
WE, THE NORTHERN BEE, GRIEVE OVER THE HACK WRITINGS OF PUSHKIN'S GROUP!
AMP
THIS IS A LOT OF MONEY GENERAL
THIS
OR SHOULD I WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT THOSE ANNOYING WRITERS?
SHALL I TYPE UP AN ARTICLE EXPOUNDING THE TSAR'S GREATNESS?
GENERAL!

THE OTHER DAY, WITH THE MONEY THAT YOU GAVE ME,
I HANDED OUT ADVANCE PAYMENTS FOR INFORMATION IN SOME SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS.
NEWS OF PEOPLE SPREADING LIBERALIST IDEAS AGAINST THE TSAR WILL NOW COME DIRECTLY TO ME!
THIS IS MY OWN FEELING BUT...
THESE DAYS PUSHKIN HAS FORGOTTEN HIS PLACE
YOUR JOB IS TO LET EVERYONE KNOW HIS TRUE CHARACTER.
WHAT A FABULOUS IDEA!
I WAS JUST THINKING THE SAME THING!
PUSHKIN, DELVIG, AND VYAZEMSKY...
THOSE THREE AUTHORS ARE IN OPPOSITION TO THE "NORTHERN BEE",
AND HAVE STARTED TO PUBLISH A PAPER CALLED THE "CONTEMPORARY".
I CAN'T LET THEM HAVE IT THEIR WAY!
I READ IT...
YOUR "FALSE DMITRY" IS A PLAGIARISM OF PUSHKIN'S "BORIS GODUNOV".

THE ONLY REASON THAT I'M USING YOU
IS BECAUSE
YOU MAKE YOURSELF HEARD
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
THERE ISN'T ANY PROOF...
WHAT YOU WROTE WAS EXACTLY THE SAME AS PUSHKIN'S UNPUBLISHED "BORIS GODUNOV"
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO REQUESTED I LOOK OVER "BORIS" FOR HIS MAJESTY REMEMBER?
I'M POLISH
THE TSAR IS GERMAN
SO WHAT!
BUL-GARIN
"TO SURVIVE IN RUSSIA, OUTSIDERS HAVE TO TAKE DESPERATE MEASURES", RIGHT?

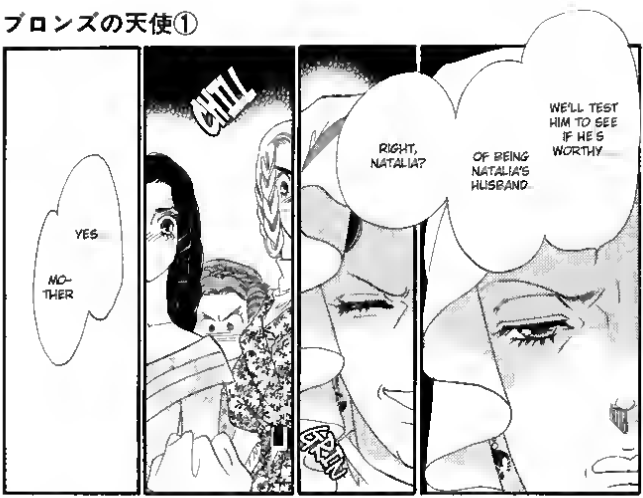
CLACK
THE TSAR'S PITBULL
YOU IDIOT ... NATALIA!
I GOT A LETTER TODAY FROM PRINCE MESHCHERSKY SAYING...
RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE TSAR,
BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T REJECT PUSHKIN ...
"LADY NATALIA IS FAR TOO BEAUTIFUL FOR ME. PLEASE FORGET ABOUT THE PLANS!"
LOOK!

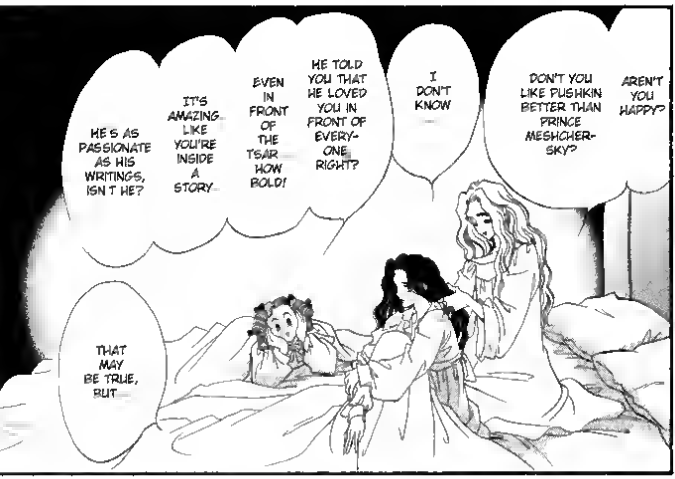

YOU SHOULDN'T LOSE YOUR TEMPER OVER SUCH A THING
MOTHER,
LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
THE GONCHAROV FAMILY DOESN'T HAVE ANY MORE MONEY TO SPARE!
WE SPENT TWO YEARS WORTH OF MONEY TO GET YOU READY FOR MARRIAGE AND NOW IT'S ALL DOWN THE DRAIN!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?!

HOW RUDE!
STOP IT, MOTHER!
YOU CAN'T SLAP NATALIA'S FACE!
HER FACE IS HER CHARM!
CAN'T NATALIA BE PUSHKIN'S WIFE?!

I KNOW HE ISN'T AS RICH AS PRINCE MESHCHERSKY,
BUT HE MUST HAVE SOME INCOME!
YES, HE'S FAR BETTER OFF THAN US!
PUSHKIN
WE'VE SPENT ALL THAT TIME AND MONEY
TO MAKE NATALIA MOSCOW'S MOST BEAUTIFUL LADY,
AND WE LOSE EVERYTHING BECAUSE OF THAT POOR POET!
OH, LORD, WHY?!
WHY US!
MOTHER?
SLAM
MOTHER?
MOTHER! MOTHER! ARE YOU OKAY?!
BANG
BANG
SHE'S SHUT HERSELF INSIDE!

CLICK
CROAK
I'VE HEARD GOD'S VOICE...
WE SHALL HAVE PUSHKIN COME TO THIS HOUSE


YES MOTHER
CHILL
RIGHT, NATALIA?
WE'LL TEST HIM TO SEE IF HE'S WORTHY OF BEING NATALIA'S HUSBAND
PAIN


HE'S AS PASSIONATE AS HIS WRITINGS, ISN'T HE?
IT'S AMAZING LIKE YOU'RE INSIDE A STORY
EVEN IN FRONT OF THE TSAR HOW BOLD!
HE TOLD YOU THAT HE LOVED YOU IN FRONT OF EVERY-ONE, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW
DON'T YOU LIKE PUSHKIN BETTER THAN PRINCE MESHCHER-SKY?
AREN'T YOU HAPPY?
THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT

WHAT?
YOU INDECISIVE GIRL!
JUST ADMIT THAT YOU'RE HAPPY!
LOVEZZZ
LOVEZZZ
I AM
BUT I HAVE THE FEELING
THAT HE DOESN'T KNOW FEAR, AND GOES TOO FAR.
I HEARD THAT ALEXANDER SERGEEVISH PUSHKIN IS A GUEST HERE.
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY IS HE HOME NOW?

田福
WE'RE PUSHKIN'S FRIENDS AND FELLOW WRITERS OF THE "CONTEMPORARY"
I'M DELVIG, ALSO A POET
THIS IS MR VYAZEMSKY THE POET AND CRITIC
OH, I'VE HEARD OF YOU
COME ON IN-
I'M A FRIEND OF PUSHKIN'S.
I'M NASHCHOKIN, AND I'LL GAMBLE WITH ANYONE. RICH OR POOR.
OH-
BRUSH BRUSH
IT SMELLS LIKE CATS IN HERE
HA
THUD
!

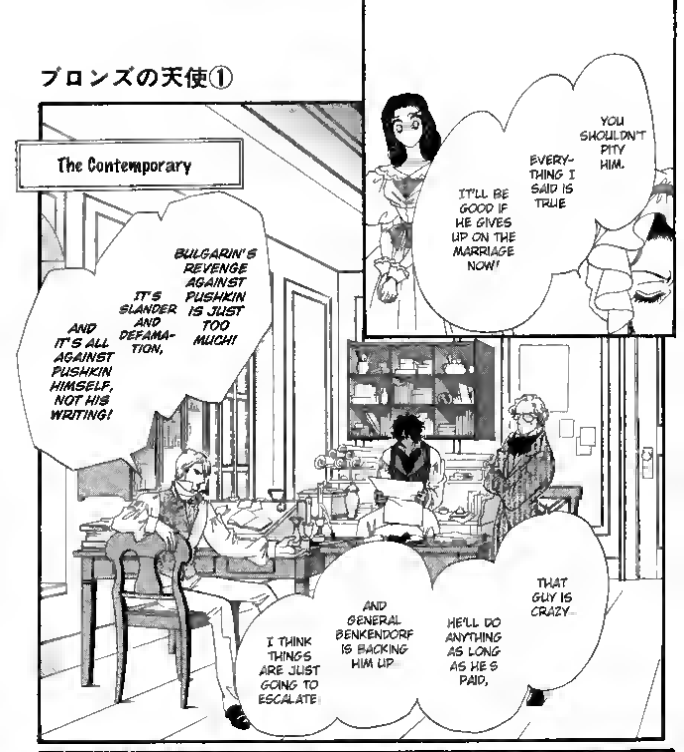
HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE THIS MORNING... HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN HEAVEN.
ZZZZ
IT'S AN INVITATION FROM LADY GONCHAROV!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
THIS MUST BE THE REASON

CLAP
LOOK AT THIS!
THE "NORTHERN BEE"!
IT'S BULGARIN'S REVENGE!
DELVIG, VYAZEMSKY
IT'S TOO EARLY TO GO TO HEAVEN!
IT'S TALKING CRAP ABOUT THE SEVENTH CHAPTER OF "ONEGIN"!
I
IF THIS REACHES NATALIA'S EARS...
I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING BIG NOW...
PUSHKIN, YOU MUST LEAD US!
THE "CONTEMPORARY" WILL FIGHT THE "NORTHERN BEE"!
NOW HE'S PLAGIARIZING MY "ONEGIN"
HAHA, THAT BUL!

YOU'RE CHOOSING A WOMAN OVER LITERATURE?!
I DIDN'T SAY THAT
YES, YOU ARE!
WHAT MAKES HER BETTER THAN LITERATURE?!
TELL ME!
SHE'S THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF ME!
EVERYTHING ABOUT HER IS PURE AND GRACEFUL
THE ANGEL'S MUSE
WELCOME MR. PUSHKIN

I THINK I'M DREAM-ING.
LADY GONCHAROV IS SMILING AT ME
THE STEAM FROM THE SAMOVAR IS SO COMFORTING
NATALIA'S BEAUTY HAS TAKEN MY BREATH AWAY
WHAT?
SOME RELATIVES HAVE GIVEN ME SOME ARTICLES ABOUT YOU..
COUGH!
THE "NORTHERN BEE".
GOKU!

"RATHER THAN THE GOD OF POETRY, PUSHKIN IS THE GOD OF DRINKING AND HELL." IT SAYS SO IN THIS ARTICLE
PLEASE WAIT! THAT ARTICLE ...!
HE'LL TALK ABOUT DEMOCRACY IN FRONT OF PEOPLE BUT IN FRONT OF THE TSAR HE JUST BOWS HIS HEAD
HE TRICKS PEOPLE INTO GIVING HIM MONEY JUST SO HE CAN GAMBLE
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WROTE THAT POEM ABOUT THE ANGEL GABRIEL WHICH BLASPHEMED THE VIRGIN MARY, ARE YOU NOT?
IT'S ALSO SAID THAT YOU'RE AN ATHEIST—
WAIT!
PLEASE COME AGAIN SOON, MR PUSHKIN!
I'M SO TIRED.
HUFF
THERE ARE SO MANY BAD THINGS ABOUT HIM—
THAT MY MOUTH IS TIRED
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM


The Contemporary
YOU SHOULDN'T PITY HIM.
EVERYTHING I SAID IS TRUE
IT'LL BE GOOD IF HE GIVES UP ON THE MARRIAGE NOW!
BULGARIN'S REVENGE AGAINST PUSHKIN IS JUST TOO MUCH!
IT'S SLANDER AND DEFAMATION,
AND IT'S ALL AGAINST PUSHKIN HIMSELF, NOT HIS WRITING!
I THINK THINGS ARE JUST GOING TO ESCALATE
AND GENERAL BENKENDORF IS BACKING HIM UP
HE'LL DO ANYTHING AS LONG AS HE'S PAID,
THAT GUY IS CRAZY

EVEN THOUGH HALF OF IT'S TRUE
IT'D BE BAD IF RUMORS KEEP SPREADING LIKE THIS
CAN'T WE ALL COMPROMISE?
THE MARRIAGE IS AT LEAST MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
"COMPROMISE"?
NEVER!

FOUR YEARS AGO, WE FOUGHT WITH THE SAME CAUSE
WE NEED TO OVERTHROW THE TSAR!
THE "NORTHERN BEE" HAS ALWAYS BEEN RUN BY THE GOVERNMENT.
AN ANTI-DEMOCRATIC GORVERN-MENT IS CONTROLLING THEM.
AND THIS IS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTS ITS PEOPLE TO READ
IT'LL BE TRAPPED IN THE PAST AND THE WORLD WILL LEAVE IT BEHIND
IF WE RUN NOW, RUSSIA WOULD NEVER CHANGE.
THAT'S RIGHT!

IF YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO WRITE I'LL WRITE!
I DON'T CARE IF THE TSAR KILLS ME!
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?!
I'M THE ONE WHO STARTED THE "CONTEM-PORARY"!
I'LL TAKE THE RESPON-SIBILITY AND WRITE!
I'LL WRITE.
PUSHKIN,
YOU SHOULDN'T WRITE
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN IS FOR YOU TWO TO FIGHT
BULGARIN HAS SINGLED ME OUT.
THAT FAKE POET!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE OUTCOME.
I'LL PLAY AROUND WITH HIM UNTIL THE SUN SETS.

I WON'T LET HIM TOY WITH RUSSIAN LITERATURE!
THEN IF HE WANTS TO PLAY MORE,
WE'LL FIGHT DIRTY ...
UNTIL ONE OF US FALLS!
RUSSIA HAS TO CHANGE!
The Contemporary
HE'S THE FILTH OF HUMANITY, EKING OUT A LIVING ON THE SCRAPS OF BETRAYAL.
The Northern Bee
THE DESCENDANT OF A BLACK MAN WHO WAS SOLD TO A NAVY CAPTAIN FOR A BOTTLE OF RUM.
The Contemporary
THIS "CAPTAIN" WAS NONE OTHER THAN PETER THE GREAT, WHO GUIDED OUR MOTHERLAND TOWARDS MODERNIZATION!

IF IT GOES ON LIKE THIS PUSHKIN WILL BE AT THE ADVANTAGE
YES, BUT...
I ALSO DON'T LIKE BULGARIN'S WRITING
WRITE THEM A LETTER TO STOP
MAKE THIS STOP!
THEY ARE NOT THE KIND OF MEN WHO WILL STOP WHEN YOU SAY SO
I'M AWARE OF THAT
JUST WRITE AT THE END THAT IT'S A DIRECT ORDER FROM THE TSAR
YES, YOUR MAJESTY

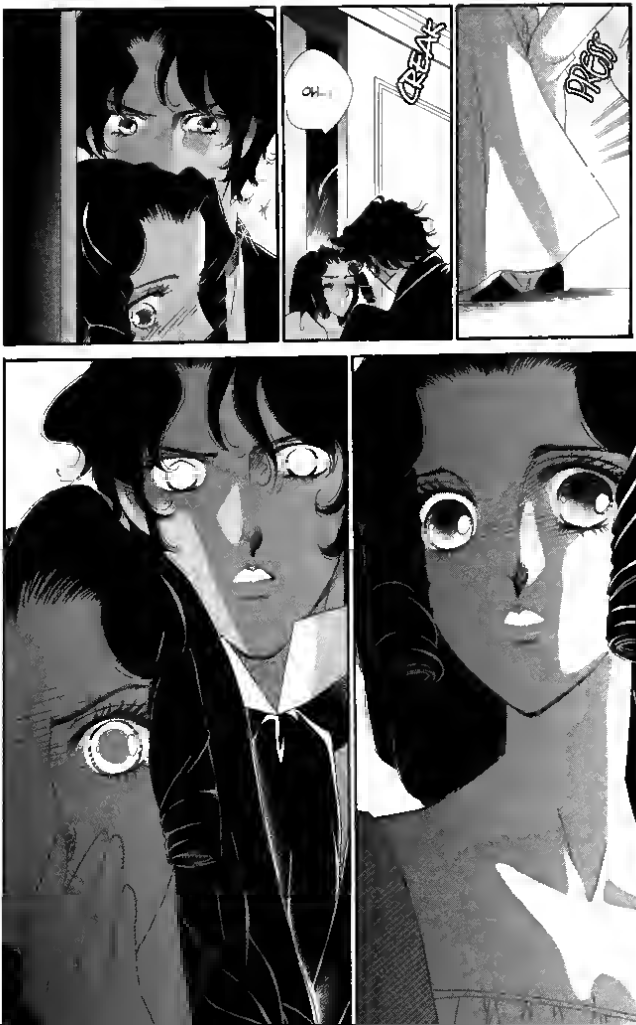
A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE WARNED ME ABOUT YOU.
MOSCOW'S FILLED WITH TALK OF YOU.
MOTHER!
BUT I STILL HAVE A LOT MORE I WANT TO ASK.
OH,
I'M SORRY, BUT I'D RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT THAT NOW.
LET ME TALK WITH HER ALONE ONCE IN A WHILE

EKATRINA, THAT WAY!
ALEXANDRA, LOOK ON THE OTHER SIDE!
SERGEI, SEARCH OVER THERE!
GRIK
YOU CAN'T GO ANYWHERE YOUR MOTHER CAN'T SEE!
YOU CAN'T! NOT WITH AN UNMARRIED LADY!
COME BACK, NATALIA!
WE CAN BUY SOME MORE TIME IF THEY THINK WE'VE GONE OUTSIDE.
IT'S A TRICK THAT I USED A LOT PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK WHEN I WAS YOUNG

I DID THAT A LOT TOO...
REALLY?
WHEN MY SIBLINGS WERE "IT"...
THEY WOULD LET ME HIDE FIRST
I USUALLY...
HID IN THE VACANT EAST WING OF THE MANSION
THEY KNEW.
BUT THEY LOOKED FOR ME AFTER EVERYONE ELSE.
NO,
IT'S BECAUSE I'D START TO CRY IF I BECAME "IT".
YOU HAVE NICE SIBLINGS
HA HA HA HA

IF YOUR MOTHER YELLS AT YOU NOW,
WILL YOU CRY?
NO.
I'VE GOTTEN USED TO HER YELLING.

GULP


PROT
CREAK
OH—!

DID... A BEAST GET IN HERE?
GRIP
FATHER...?
FATHER?

FATHER...?

I'M NOT CRAZY!
HOW DARE YOU LOCK ME UP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

CALL FOR HELP...!
TAKE NATALIA OUT OF HERE!
MOTHER!
MOTHER!

HELP MOTHER!
QUICKLY!
MOTHER!
MOTHER'S GOING TO DIE BECAUSE OF ME!
I HAVE TO SAVE HER!
HURRY! HURRY!

HELP
HER!

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FATHER.
HE FELL OFF A HORSE
THERE HAVE BEEN SOME RELATIVES OF MINE THAT BECAME CRAZY TOO
AH...
I REMEMBERED ABOUT HER
IT'S OKAY
FROM THE MOMENT WE'RE BORN, THIS WORLD IS UNFAIR
I'VE SEEN LOTS OF PEOPLE DIE JUST BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN UNLUCKY
SOMETIMES I ALSO FEEL LIKE I'M IN HELL
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, INSTEAD OF COMFORTING MYSELF
I IMAGINE ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MUST FEEL LIKE ME, AND I START TO SPEAK GENTLY

I START...
TO SPEAK GENTLY,
"JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN BETRAYED BY LIFE,
DON'T FALL INTO DESPAIR, DON'T GET ANGRY."
"IF YOU'RE MISERABLE NOW, JUST WAIT."
"A BEAUTIFUL DAY WILL COME,
I'M SURE OF IT."

"THE PAIN YOU'RE GOING THROUGH NOW IS SHORT-LIVED."
"OUR HEARTS LIVE IN THE FUTURE."
"TIME GOES BY,"
"AND WHEN THE PRESENT BECOMES THE PAST, IT'S ALL A MEMORY."
A POEM IS REALLY LIKE...
SO THIS IS WHAT...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NATALIA!
HUFF HUFF
GENTLE NEW WORKS HAVE TO BE WRITTEN SO EVERYONE CAN READ THEM.
HE'S LIKE
THE SUNLIGHT SHINING DOWN ON EVERYONE

PLEASE GIVE ME LADY NATALIA'S HAND!

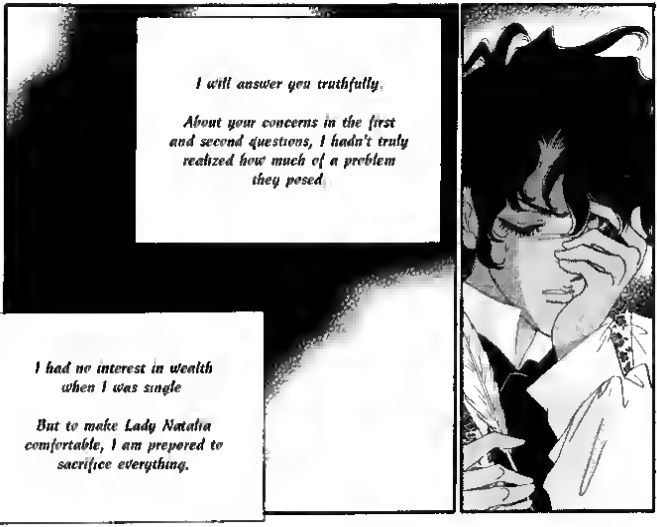
NATALIA!
YES?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I...
THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME!
CLACK
LEAVE THE ROOM.
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S GOING TO SAY?
MARRIAGE IS
THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT IN A WOMAN'S LIFE
MOT-HER...
IT ALL DEPENDS ON MOTHER'S DECISION

THEREFORE, MR. PUSHKIN,
I'LL ASK YOU THREE QUESTIONS.
I'LL MAKE MY DECISION ...
AFTER HEARING YOUR ANSWERS.

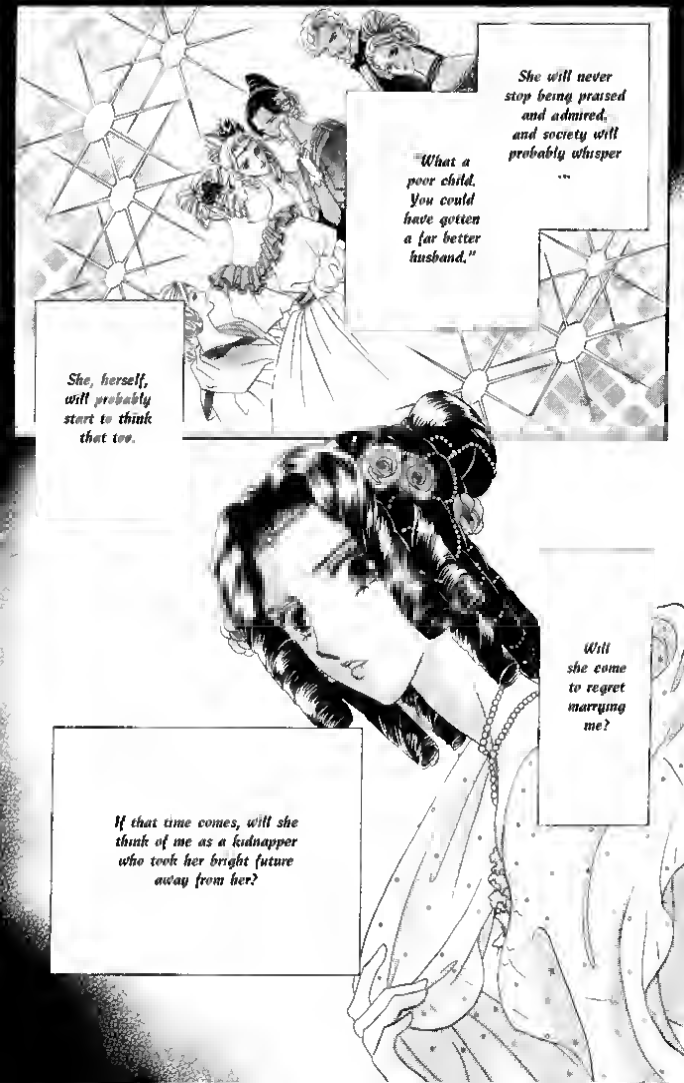
CLACK
PANG
HOW DID IT GO? YOU EVEN HAD THAT STYLISH COAT I LENT YOU!
OH, PUSHKIN'

I am writing this letter to you today to answer your three questions.
Lady Gon-charov,
QUESTION NUMBER ONE. YOUR SOCIAL SITUATION.
ARE YOU STILL A MAN UNDER THE SURVEILLANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT?
QUESTION NUMBER TWO. WEALTH.
CAN YOU PROMISE NATALIA A LIFE WITHOUT ANY WORRIES ABOUT MONEY?

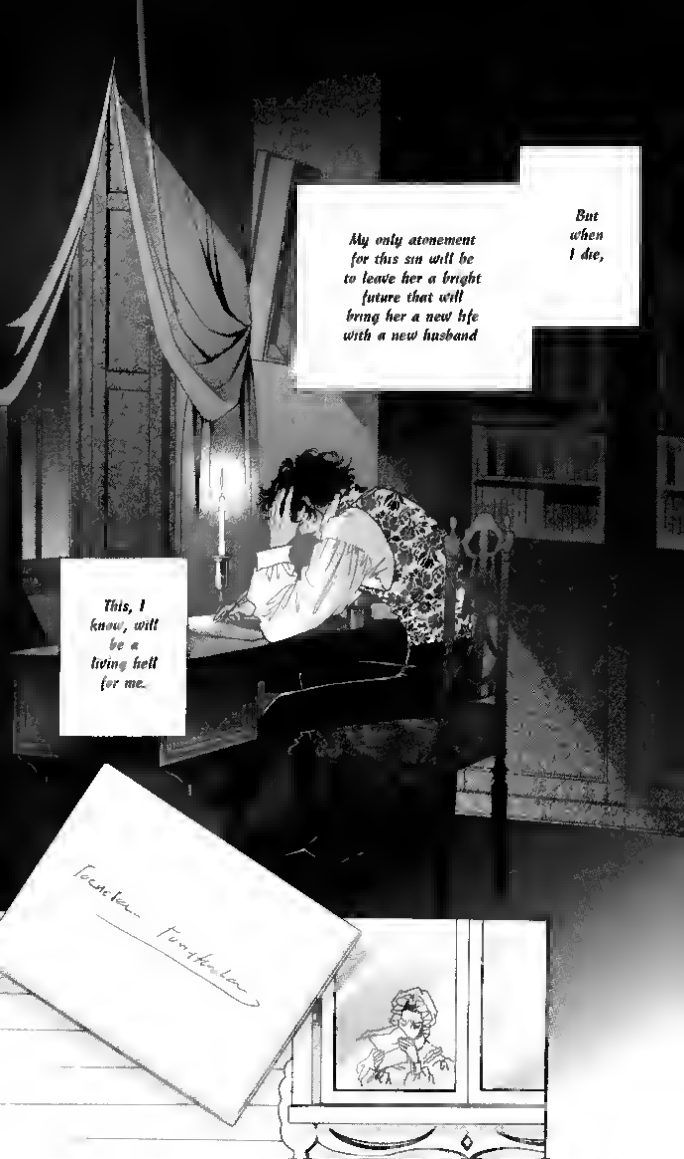
DO YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN MAKE AN INNOCENT GIRL LIKE NATALIA TRULY HAPPY?
THESE ARE THE THINGS YOU ARE FAMOUS FOR IN MOSCOW
DUELING, GAMBLING, AND WOMEN.
QUESTION NUMBER THREE


I will answer you truthfully.
About your concerns in the first and second questions, I hadn't truly realized how much of a problem they posed
I had no interest in wealth when I was single
But to make Lady Natalia comfortable, I am prepared to sacrifice everything.

As I currently am, I don't possess a single quality that Lady Natalia would be enamored of.
Even if she accepts my marriage proposal,
It would be because she's thinking of her family.
I shall need to go to the General of the Tsar's secret police and ask for my position to be secured. If my new work "Boris Godunov" is allowed to be released, my affairs will change for the better
Regarding your final question...
I probably have no choice but to gain her love over the time we spend together.
And the following I know for a fact...
That one day she will realize the other possibilities that were open to her,


She will never stop being praised and admired, and society will probably whisper ...
"What a poor child. You could have gotten a far better husband."
She, herself, will probably start to think that too.
Will she come to regret marrying me?
If that time comes, will she think of me as a kidnapper who took her bright future away from her?

But God know this.
I'll gladly give my own life for her sake
Will she come to detest me?


My only atonement for this sin will be to leave her a bright future that will bring her a new life with a new husband
But when I die,
This, I know, will be a living hell for me.
Forsaken Frankenstein

YES, MOTHER
SERGEI!
PLEASE GIVE THIS TO MR PUSHKIN
Sergei grown up
I
HE UNDERSTANDS
SERGEI!
IS THAT...
IT'S PROBABLY THE ANSWER TO THE PROPOSAL!
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE HEART OF A MAN IN LOVE
YES, AND HE HASN'T LEFT THAT ROOM EVER SINCE.
I CAN
PUSHKIN PROPOSED FOR THE SECOND TIME ALREADY?
WHAT DOES IT SAY...?

MASTER, SOMEONE FROM THE GONCHAROV HOUSEHOLD IS HERE
OH, SO IT'S ONLY ME

THE ANSWER TO MY PROPOSAL IS YES!
NATALIA IS MINE NOW!